

DIGITAL EDITION

GUNSLINGER GIRL

STORY & ART BY
YU AIDA

Vol. 1





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GUNSLINGER GIRL

VOLUME 1

story and art by YU AIDA

TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

RETOUCH AND LETTERING
Roland Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

LAYOUT
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COPY EDITOR
Shanti Whitesides

EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

GUNSLINGER GIRL VOLUME 1

Copyright © 2002 Yu Aida

First published in 2002 by ASCII MEDIA WORKS, Tokyo, Japan.

English translation rights arranged with ASCII MEDIA WORKS.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas books may be purchased in bulk for promotional, educational, or business use. Please contact your local bookseller or the Macmillan Corporate and Premium Sales Department at 1-800-221-7945, extension 5442, or by e-mail at MacmillanSpecialMarkets@macmillan.com.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

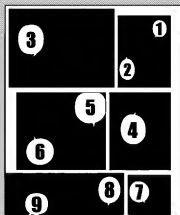
Ebook Edition: July 2017

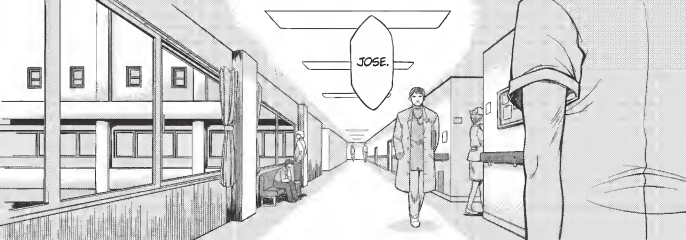
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOLLOW US ONLINE: www.gomanga.com

READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.





JOSE.



A QUAD-RIPLEGIC GIRL WITH CFS*, WHO HAS BEEN ABANDONED EVEN BY HER FAMILY.

I'VE ALREADY MADE MY CHOICE.

*CFS = Chronic Fatigue Syndrome



DO YOU INTEND TO VISIT EVERY SINGLE HOSPITAL IN ITALY BEFORE YOU DECIDE?

HN?
OH...
NO.



THE YOUNGER THE BETTER, FOR BOTH THE IMPLANTS AND THE DRUG-INDUCED BRAIN-WASHING.



JEAN, ARE YOU SURE IT HAS TO BE A CHILD?

THAT IS WHAT THE AGENCY'S TECHNICIANS SPECIFIED.

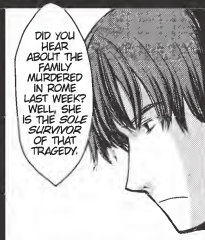


IT'S GOOD TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT TAKING SUCH AN ACTIVE ROLE IN AIDING THE SEVERELY DISABLED.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY? TRULY, A SPLENDID IDEA FOR AN ORGANIZATION.

SO YOU GENTLEMEN ARE FROM... WHAT WAS THE NAME AGAIN?

AH YES ...



DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FAMILY MURDERED IN ROME LAST WEEK? WELL, SHE IS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THAT TRAGEDY.



YES, IF EVER A LITTLE GIRL NEEDED YOUR ORGANIZATION'S HELP, IT IS HER.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR. NOW, WE HEARD YOU HAD A CRITICALLY INJURED CHILD HERE?



THE POOR CHILD...

SHE'S EXPRESSED A STRONG DESIRE FOR SUICIDE.



THE CRIMINALS KILLED HER PARENTS, AND THEN SPENT THE REST OF THE NIGHT TAKING TURNS BEATING AND RAPING HER BESIDE THEIR CORPSES.

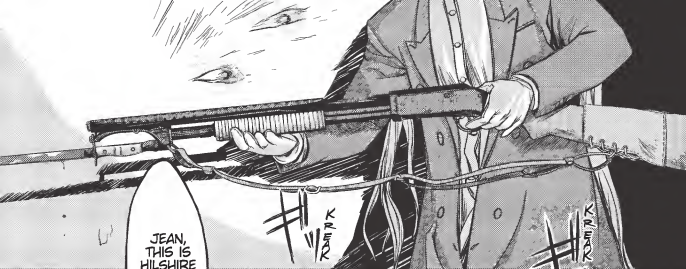
The girl has a mechanical body. However, she is still an adolescent child.

GUNSLINGER GIRL.

ガンズリンガール

CHAPTER 1: ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS

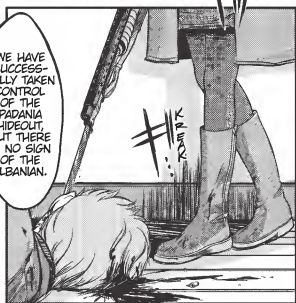


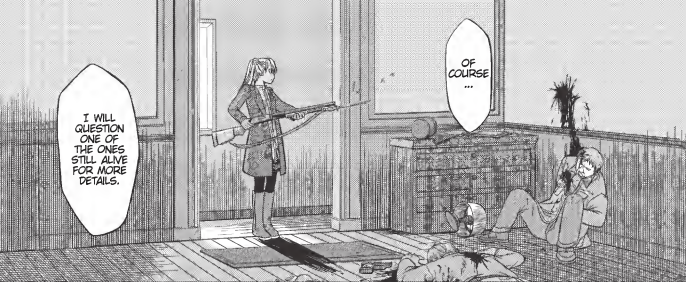


JEAN,
THIS IS
HILSHIRE
IN
CALABRIA.

WE HAVE
SUCCESS-
FULLY TAKEN
CONTROL
OF THE
PADANIA
HIDEOUT,
BUT THERE
IS NO SIGN
OF THE
ALBANIAN.

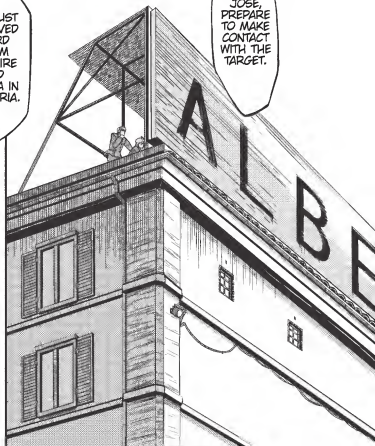
REPEAT,
THE
ALBANIAN
IS NOT
HERE.
I SUSPECT
HE HAS
ALREADY
BEEN
MOVED TO
NAPLES.

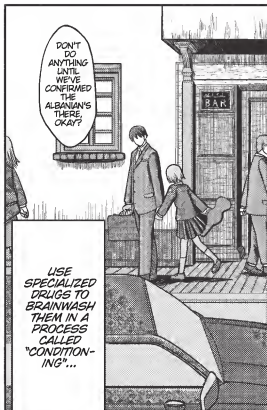




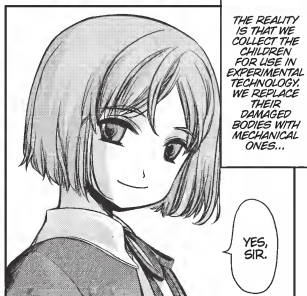
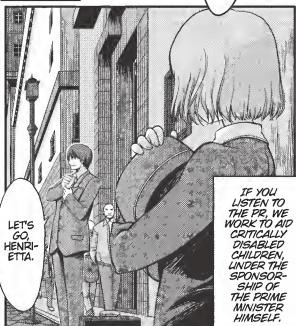
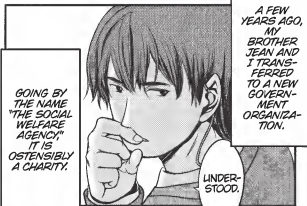
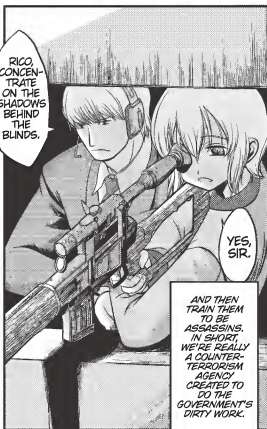
WE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM HILSHIRE AND TRIELA IN CALABRIA.

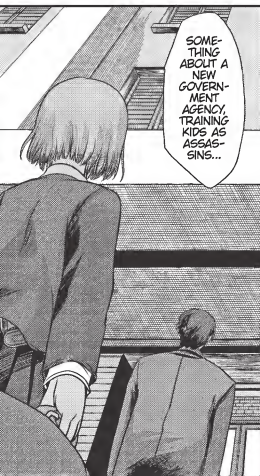
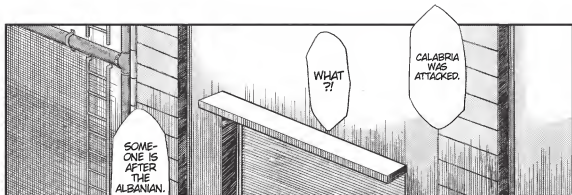
JOSE, PREPARE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE TARGET.





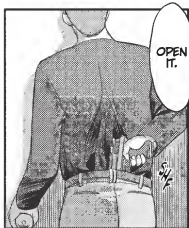
USE
SPECIALIZED DRUGS TO
BRAINWASH
THEM IN A
PROCESS
CALLED
"CONDITION-
ING"...







LOUIE,
WHAT
DO YOU
SEE?!



OPEN
IT.



A
GIRL
...?



IT'S
SOME
GUY IN
A SUIT.
HE'S
GOT A
GIRL
WITH
HIM.

BOSS
...



I HEARD
SIGNORE
SCARRO
OF THE
COSTELLO
COMPANY
WAS HERE,
AND I WAS
HOPING FOR
AN INTER-
VIEW...

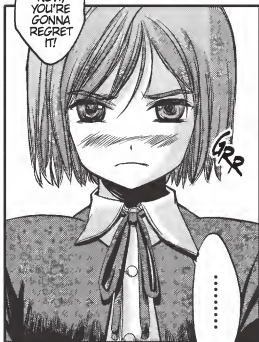
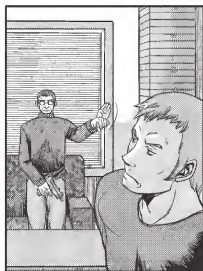
WHAT
DOES A
REPORTER
WANT
WITH
US?

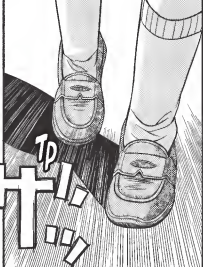


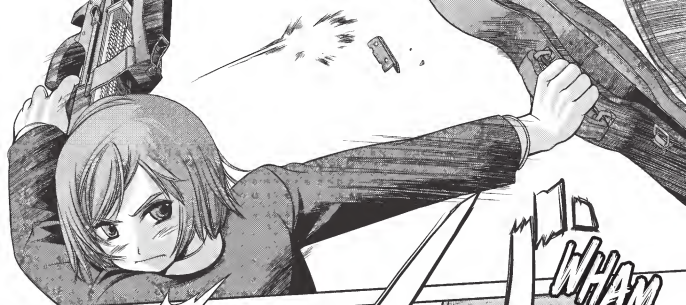
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
?

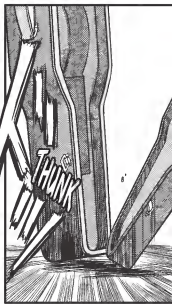
GOOD
DAY,
SIR.

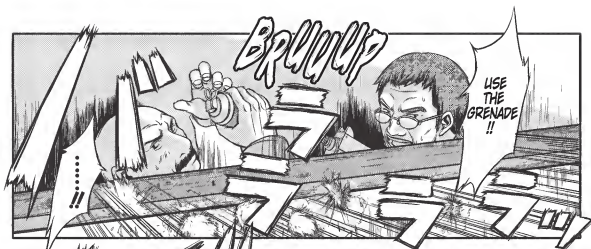
I AM A
REPORTER
WITH THE
LIBERO ITALIA
NEWSPAPER.
I WAS
WONDERING
IF I COULD
HAVE A
MOMENT OF
YOUR
TIME.

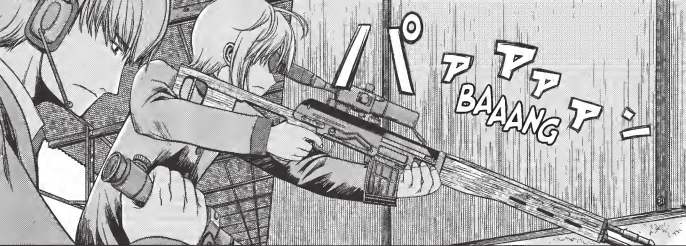


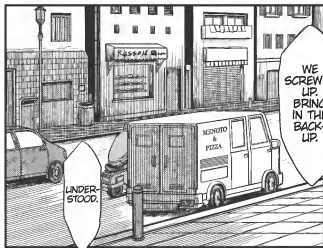








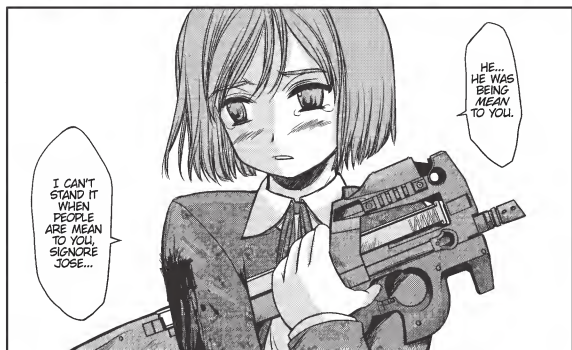




WE
SCREWED
UP.
BRING
IN THE
BACK-
UP.



HENRIETTA.





I'M FINE.

HIN, YOU WERE SHOT. ARE YOU OKAY?

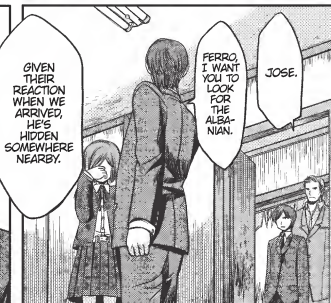


DID YOU FORGET WHAT I TOLD YOU?

NO, SIR.



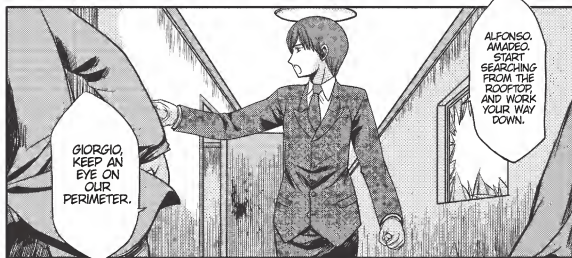
UNDERSTOOD.



GIVEN THEIR REACTION WHEN WE ARRIVED, HE'S HIDDEN SOMEWHERE NEARBY.

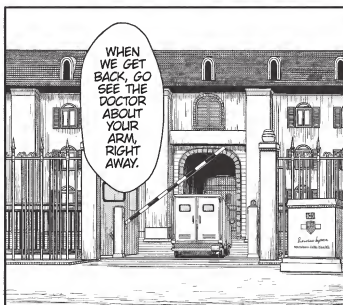
FERRO, I WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR THE ALBANIAN.

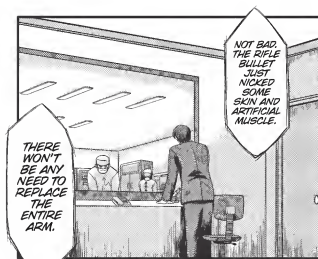
JOSE.



GIORGIO, KEEP AN EYE ON OUR PERIMETER.

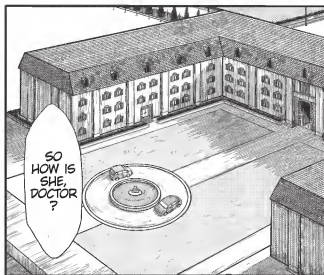
ALFONSO, AMADEO, START SEARCHING FROM THE ROOFTOP, AND WORK YOUR WAY DOWN.



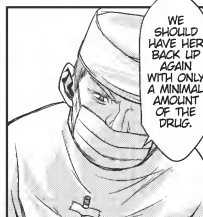


THERE WON'T BE ANY NEED TO REPLACE THE ENTIRE ARM.

NOT BAD. THE RIFLE BULLET JUST NICKED SOME SKIN AND ARTIFICIAL MUSCLE.



SO HOW IS SHE, DOCTOR?

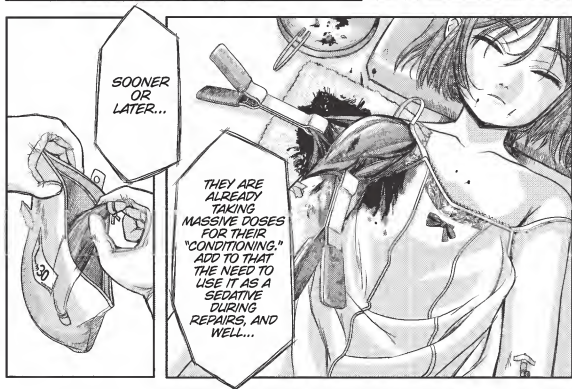


WE SHOULD HAVE HER BACK UP AGAIN WITH ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF THE DRUG.



DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. EVERY TIME THESE GIRLS COME IN FOR REPAIRS, AT LEAST SOME OF THE DRUG IS NECESSARY. "MINIMAL" DOESN'T EQUAL ZERO, YOU KNOW.

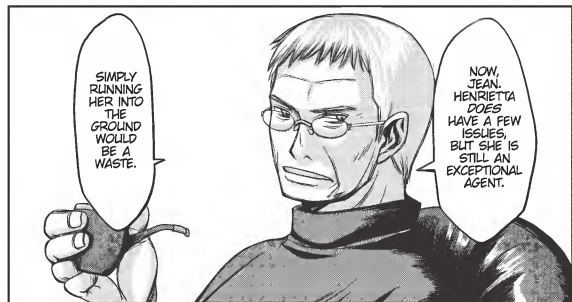
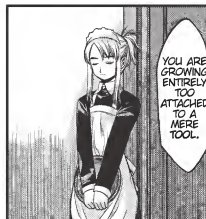
THAT'S A RELIEF. THANKS, DOCTOR.

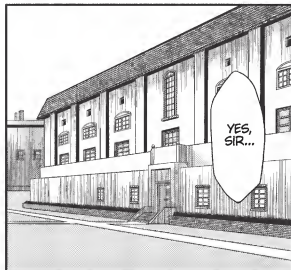
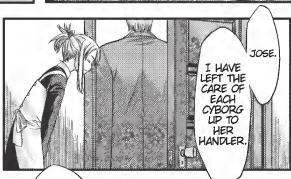
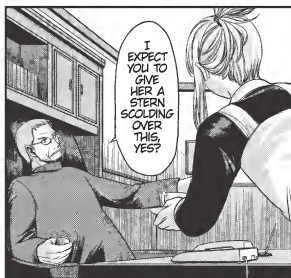


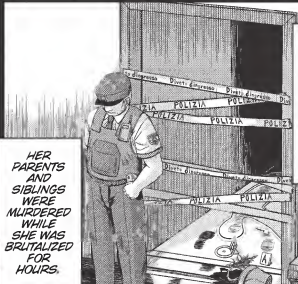
SOONER OR LATER...

THEY ARE ALREADY TAKING MASSIVE DOSES FOR THEIR "CONDITIONING." ADD TO THAT THE NEED TO USE IT AS A SEDATIVE DURING REPAIRS, AND WELL...









HER PARENTS
AND SIBLINGS
WERE MURDERED
WHILE SHE WAS
BRUTALIZED FOR
HOURS.

NOT
SURPRISING,
GIVEN THAT
SHE WAS A
VICTIM OF
A TRULY
GRISLY
CRIME.
THE ONLY
SURVIVOR
OUT OF A
FAMILY OF
SIX...



WHEN
HENRIETTA
WAS FIRST
BROUGHT
TO THE
AGENCY,
SHE WAS
A VERY
QUIET
CHILD.



SO I
CHOSE
HER
AS MY
PARTNER.

WHEN I
FIRST MET
HER AT THE
HOSPITAL,
SHE WAS
A WRECK--
RIPPED TO
SHREDS IN
BOTH BODY
AND SOUL.



ALL I DO
KNOW IS
THAT I
WANTED TO
SAVE HER.

MAYBE I WAS
FEELING
CHARITABLE.
MAYBE I WAS
FEELING
SYMPATHETIC.
I DON'T KNOW...

WHEN A CHILD IS BROUGHT TO THE AGENCY, TWO THINGS HAPPEN. THEY ARE GIVEN HEAVY PHYSICAL MODIFICATIONS, AND THEY UNDERGO A BRAINWASHING PROCESS CALLED "CONDITIONING."

OKAY, TO LEARN HOW TO DO YOUR WORK RIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MEMORIZE A LOT OF THINGS.

I'LL WRITE UP SOME NOTES I WANT YOU TO STUDY EVERY NIGHT.

GOOD WORK IS THE ACCUMULATION OF A LOT OF SIMPLE TASKS, DONE CORRECTLY.

FORTUNATELY FOR HER, CONDITIONING GENERALLY ERASES ALL OF THE CHILD'S MEMORIES OF THEIR PREVIOUS LIFE.

SO I DECIDED TO TRY TO GET HER TO TALK TO ME.

LOOK UP.

HM?

ALL RIGHT, TODAY'S LESSON. WHEN SNIPING, AIM FOR THE HEAD WHENEVER THE TARGET IS UNDER 600 METERS AWAY. OVER 600 METERS, AIM FOR THE CENTER OF THE TORSO.

.....

IT
COULD
BE A
FAIRY,
YOU
KNOW.

WELL,
IT'S A
SHINY
SPOT UP
IN THE
SKY.
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?

WHAT
IS
IT...?

THERE,
NEXT TO
THAT
CLOUD.
DO YOU
SEE THAT
LITTLE
PINPRICK
OF LIGHT?

NOW,
IF IT WAS
NIGHT
OUT,
WHAT
WOULD
YOU THINK?

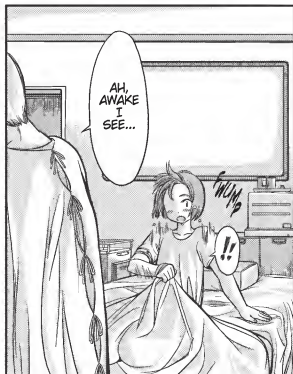
GOOD
GUESS.
BACK
DURING
THE WAR,
SOME
PEOPLE
DID THINK
IT WAS A
PLANE,
AND GOT
VERY
SCARED.

IS IT
AN AIR-
PLANE?

CAREFUL...
DON'T
LOOK
RIGHT
AT THE
SUN.

YEP!
THAT'S
VENUS,
THE
PLANET
ORBITING
ONE
CLOSER TO
THE SUN
THAN
EARTH.

.....
A
STAR
...?





THE
TEARS
JUST
WON'T
STOP...

UM...
I-I
DON'T
KNOW,
SIR.



I
JUST
SNAP-
PED, I
GUESS.

UM,
SORT
OF.

I HEARD
FROM RICO.
SO YOU
WENT ON
A SPREE,
HUH?



HENRI-
ETTA.



OH, HE
DOESN'T
HATE
YOU.
STOP
WORRY-
ING.

BUT...



TRIELA?
WHAT
DO I
DO
NOW?

I THINK
SIGNORE
JOSE
MIGHT
HATE
ME...



YEAH.
TEA AND
CAKE ARE
LIKE MAGIC
WHEN IT
COMES TO
CHEERING
PEOPLE
UP.



I
KNOW!
WHY
DON'T
YOU COME
OVER TO
ME AND
CLAES'
ROOM FOR
A DRINK?

A
DRINK
?



DO YOU
REALLY
THINK
IT'S
WORTH
IT JUST
TO MAKE
HIM
HAPPY
?

I
DON'T
KNOW
...

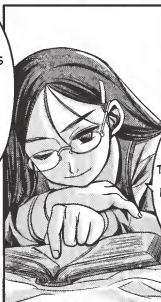


SO
BASICALLY,
YOU
WANTED
TO MAKE
YOURSELF
LOOK
GOOD
IN HIS
EYES.

MAYBE
...



IF
SOMEONE
THREW
THEMSELVES
AT ME
LIKE THAT,
I WOULD
FIND IT
ANNOYING,
NOT
ENDEARING.

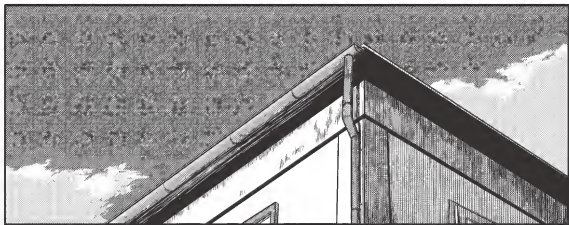
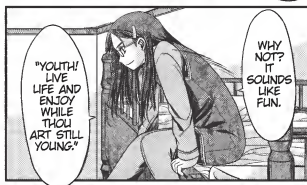
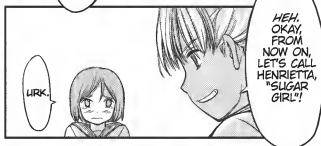


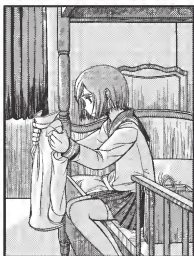
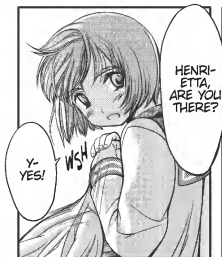
THOUGH,
TO BE
HONEST
...

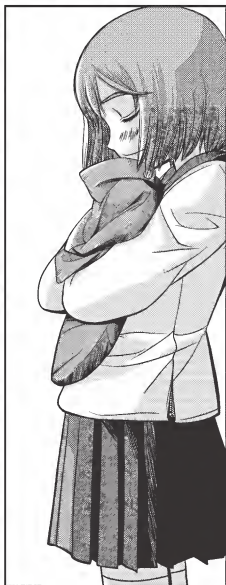
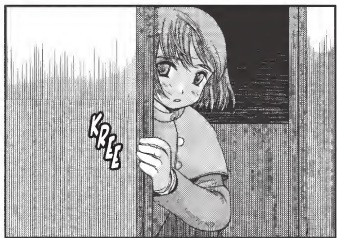
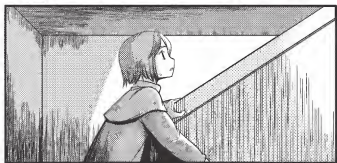


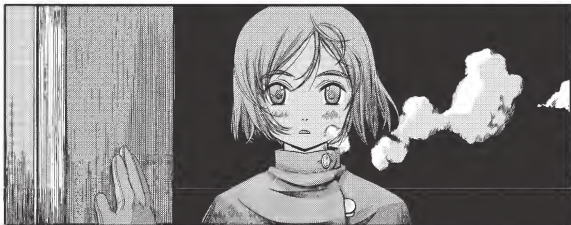
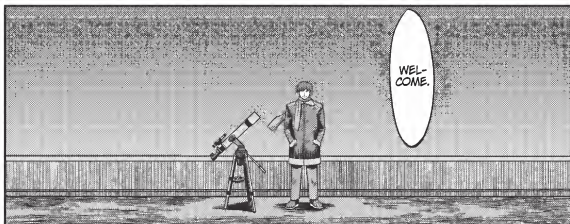
IN THE
END...

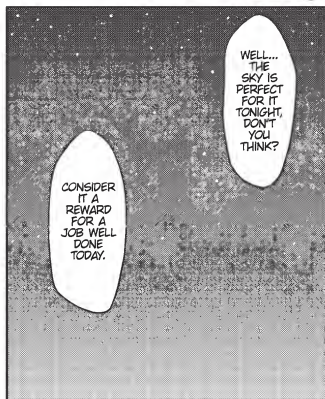
ISN'T
IT ALL
ABOUT
WHAT
WE CAN
DO FOR
THEM?

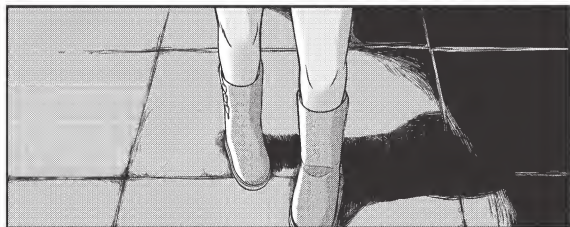














DISTRAUGHT
AT HIS
DEATH,
THE MOON
GODDESS
GRIEVED.

THEN, SHE HIT
UPON AN IDEA.
TAKING ORION'S
BODY, SHE SET
HIM AMONG
THE STARS AS A
CONSTELLATION,
SO SHE COULD
SEE HIM EVERY
TIME SHE
TRAVELED
ACROSS THE
NIGHT SKY.



LONG,
LONG AGO,
THE
GODDESS
ARTEMIS
ACCIDENTALLY
SHOT AND
KILLED HER
LOVER, THE
HUNTER
ORION.



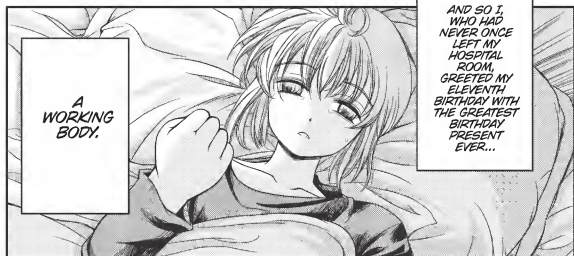
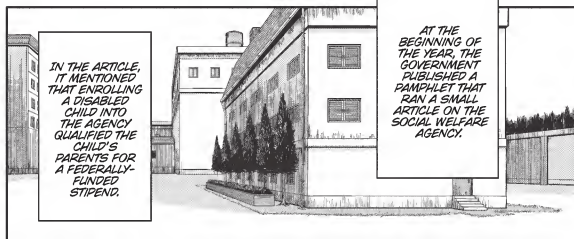
IT'S
A SAD
TALE.

.....



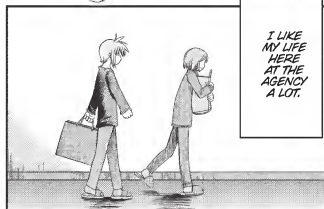
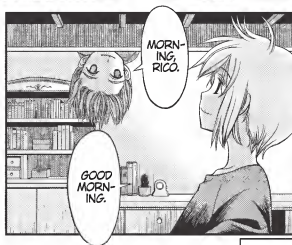
GUNSLINGERGIRL.

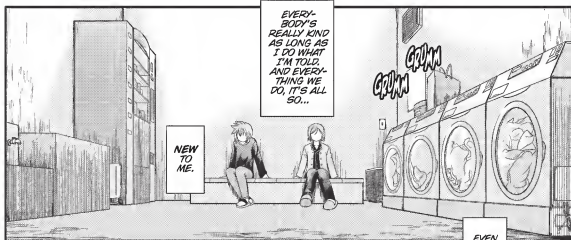
GUNSLINGERGIRL





CHAPTER 2: LOVE THY NEIGHBOR



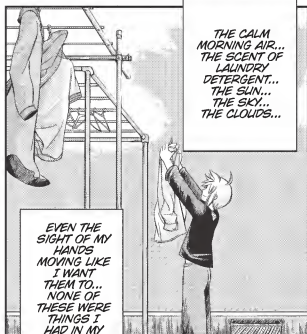


EVERY-
BODY'S
REALLY KIND
AS LONG AS
I DO WHAT
I'M TOLD.
AND EVERY-
THING WE
DO, IT'S ALL
SO...

NEW
TO
ME.

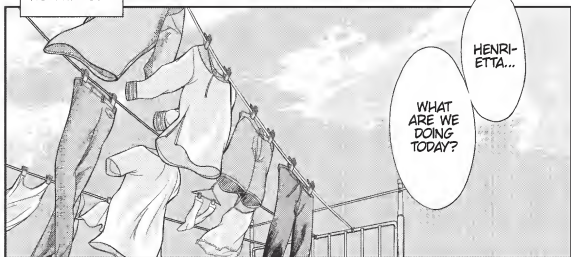
GUM
GUM
GUM

EVEN
THE
LITTLE
EVERY-
DAY
THINGS
...



THE CALM
MORNING AIR...
THE SCENT OF
LAUNDRY
DETERGENT...
THE SUN...
THE SKY...
THE CLOUDS...

EVEN THE
SIGHT OF MY
HANDS
MOVING LIKE
I WANT
THEM TO...
NONE OF
THESE WERE
THINGS I
HAD IN MY
HOSPITAL BED.



HENRI-
ETTA...

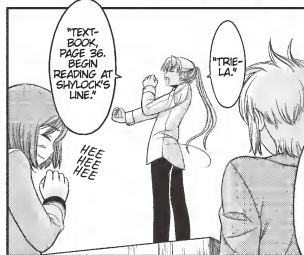
WHAT
ARE WE
DOING
TODAY?



HMP
YOU
LOOK
PRETTY
HAPPY
ABOUT
THAT,
TRIELA.

AHH.

I
HEARD
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
TRAINING
AT THE
OUTDOOR
RANGE
TODAY...



"TEXT-
BOOK,
PAGE 36.
BEGIN
READING
AT
SHYLOCK'S
LINE."

"TRIE-
LA."

HEE
HEE
HEE

IT'S
BETTER
THAN
BEING
STUCK IN
ONE OF
SIGNORE
HILSHIRE'S
LECTURES
AGAIN,
THAT'S
ALL.



HN?
OH.



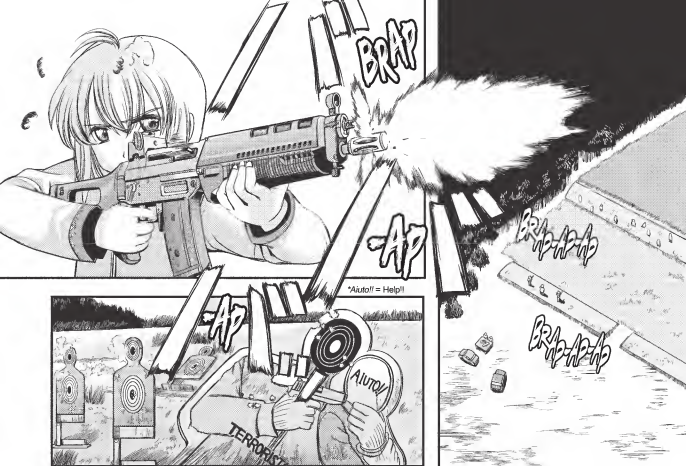
YEP!

RICO,
ANYTHING
IS FUN
FOR YOU.

IT'S ALL
THINGS
I'VE NEVER
LEARNED
BEFORE,
SO
STUDYING IS
JUST AS
FUN FOR
ME!



I
DON'T
MIND...



*Autofl = Help!

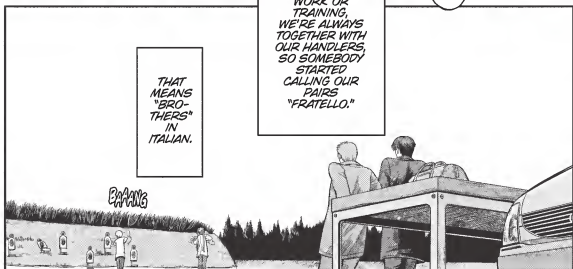
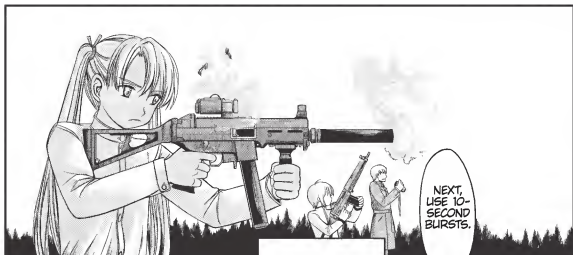


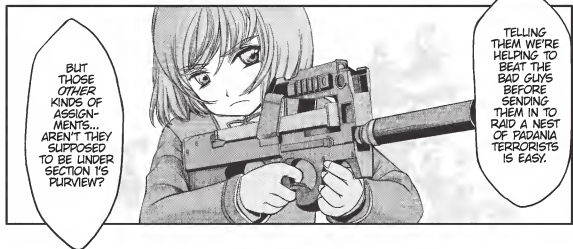
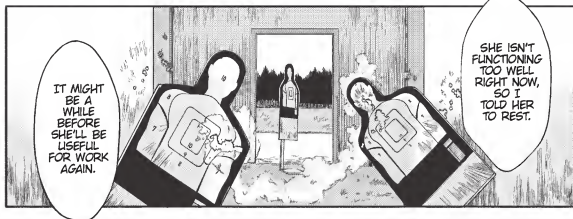
LOOSEN UP.
YOU MUST
LEARN
TO USE
YOUR BODY
MORE
FREELY.

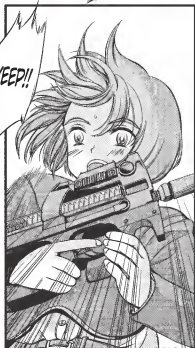
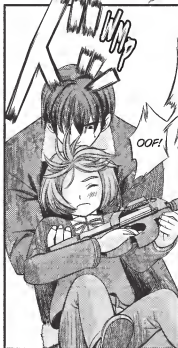
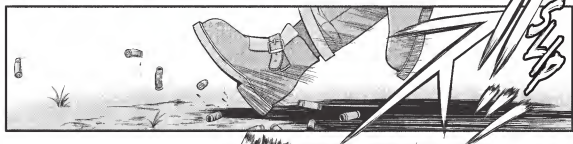
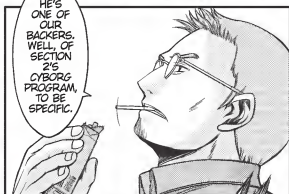
EACH
OF
US KIDS
HERE AT THE
AGENCY HAS
AN ADULT TO
TAKE CARE
OF US AND
TRAIN US--
OUR
"HANDLER."



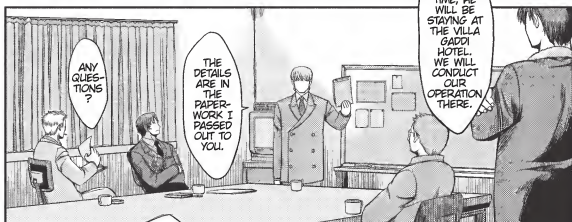
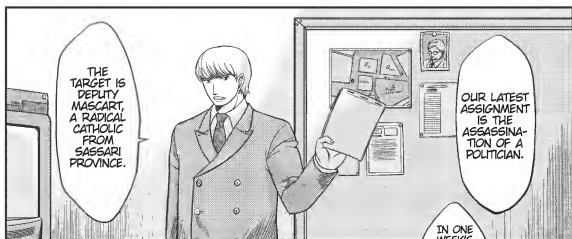
THAT WAS
TERRIBLE.

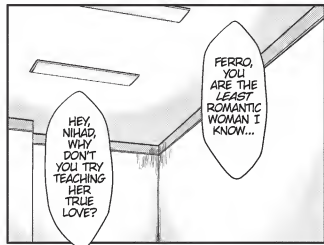
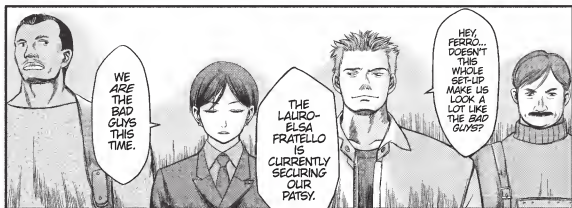


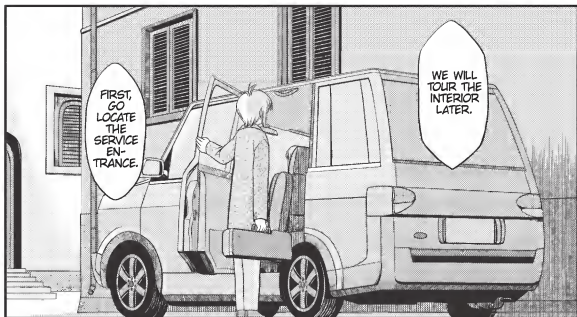
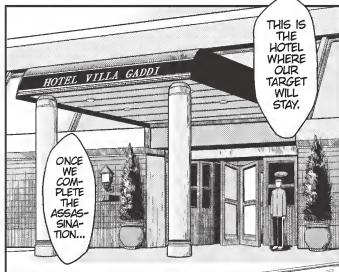


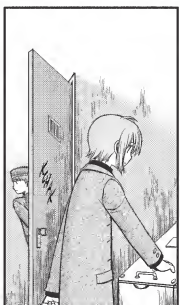
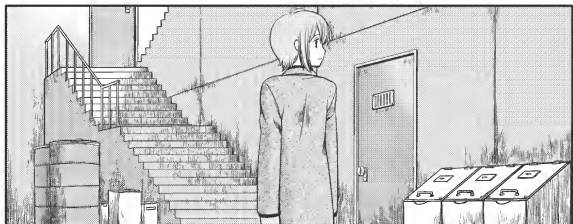
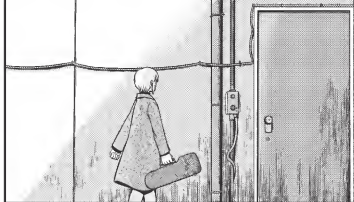


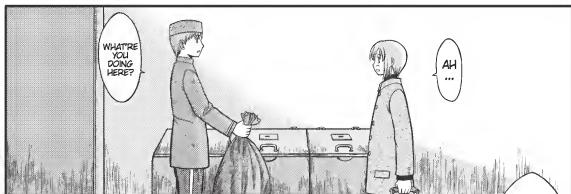














AH...
STILL LEARN-
ING,
HUH?

ME
TOO.



UH...
I'M NOT
VERY GOOD
YET.

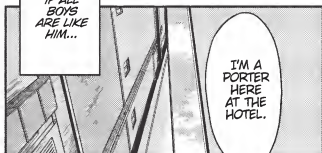


I...
UM...
I CAN'T.

WHY
NOT?



THIS
BOY
SURE
TALKS
A LOT.



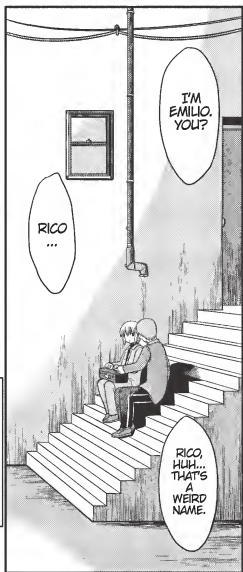
I
WONDER
IF ALL
BOYS
ARE LIKE
HIM...

I'M A
PORTER
HERE
AT THE
HOTEL..



I'VE
GOTTA
WORK,
Y'SEE.
MY DAD'S
BEEN
DRUNK
ALMOST
NONSTOP
SINCE HE
LOST HIS
JOB.

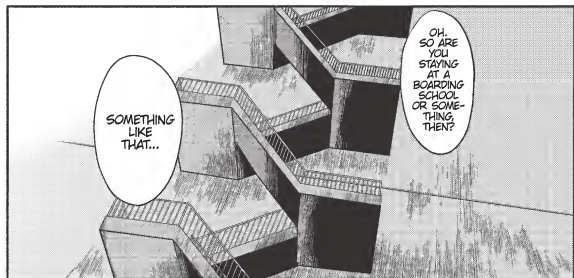
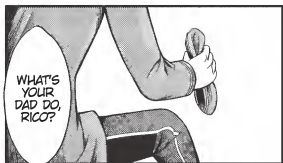
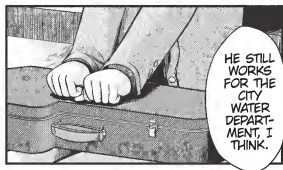
I...
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO SAY
BACK TO
HIM.

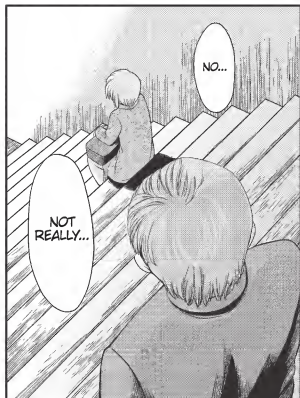


I'M
EMILIO.
YOU?

RICO
...

RICO,
HUH...
THAT'S
A
WEIRD
NAME.





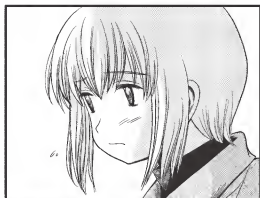


SHE IS
ALWAYS
LITTERLY
USELESS
BY
HERSELF.



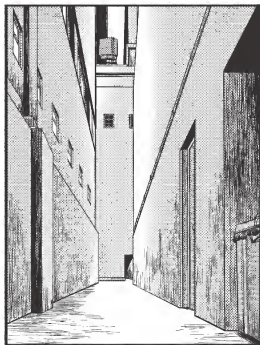
A
LITTLE
LATE,
ISN'T
SHE?

YES.



I SAID,
"I MIGHT
BE POOR
NOW..."

--SO
I WENT,
AND I
TOLD
SIGNORE
DANIELE,
STRAIGHT
TO HIS
FACE...



"BUT
SOMEDAY,
I'LL MAKE
IT BIG, AND
THEN I'LL
BE THE
RICH ONE
EVERYONE
LOOKS UP
TO!"

AH...
I, LIM...
I HAVE
TO GO...

LIM,
EMILIO...?

HM?

AND
YOUR
BOSS WILL
GET MAD IF
YOU DON'T
GO BACK
SOON,
RIGHT?

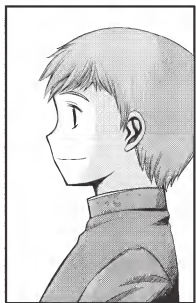
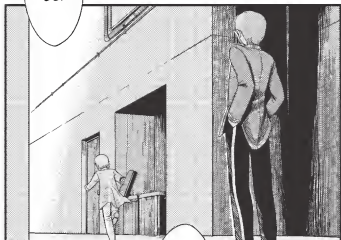
WHAT'S
WRONG
?

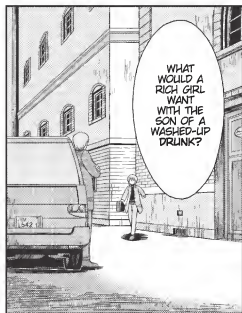
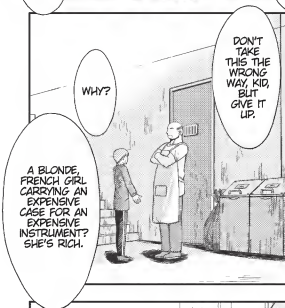
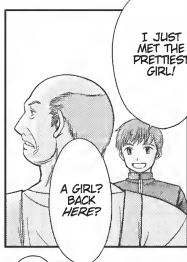
SHOULDN'T
YOU BE
GETTING
BACK TO
WORK?

HEY,
RICO?

HNN.
YOU'VE
GOT A
POINT
THERE.

TP
SORRY.







IF ANYONE
EVER SEES
YOU WHILE
YOU ARE
WORKING
AGAIN...

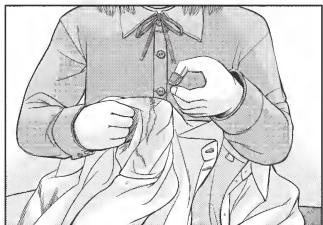


DID
YOU SEE
ANYONE
BACK
THERE?

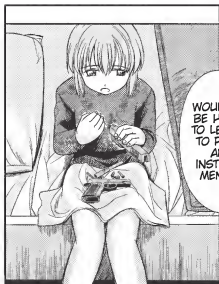
NO.



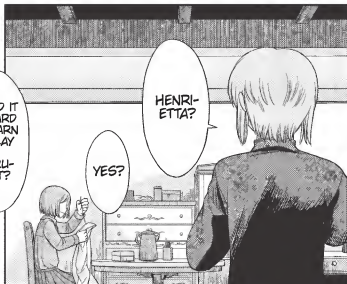
KILL
THEM.



YES,
SIR.

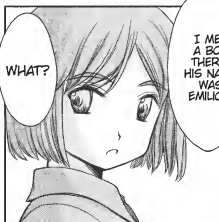


WOULD IT
BE HARD
TO LEARN
TO PLAY
AN INSTRUMENT?



HENRI-
ETTA?

YES?



WHAT?

I MET
A BOY
THERE.
HIS NAME
WAS EMILIO...



AND?

WE WENT
TO CASE
THE HOTEL
TODAY,
AND, UM...



HM? WHY
DO YOU
ASK THAT?

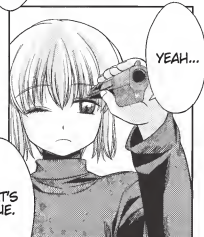


I THINK
HE GOT
THE WRONG
IDEA... HE
THOUGHT
MY GUN
CASE WAS
FOR
INSTRUMENTS.

HE
ASKED
ME TO
PLAY
FOR HIM
SOMETIME...

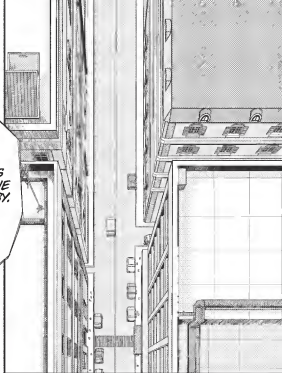
I
SEE...

HE
WORKS
AT THE
HOTEL.
HE'S A
PORTER...





THIS IS THE LOBBY.



IS THE WIRETAP IN PLACE?



BODY-GUARDS?



YES, SIR. WORKING PERFECTLY.

JUST HEARD HE'S PLANNING ON TAKING A SHOWER.



NONE. HE'S ONLY WITH HIS SECRETARY, AS EXPECTED.



HENRI-
ETTA. TRIELA.
STAY
HERE AS
REAR-
GUARD.



GOOD.
WE WILL
NAIL HIM
AS HE
COMES
OUT.



WE
DON'T
WANT TO
MOVE EN
MASSE.
TOO CON-
SPICUOUS.

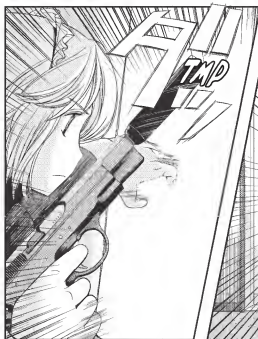


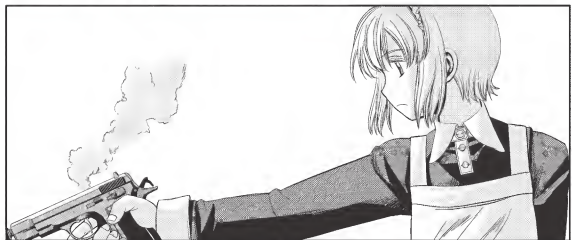
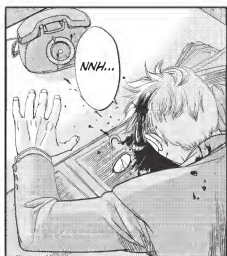
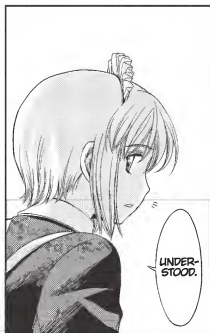
COME
IN.

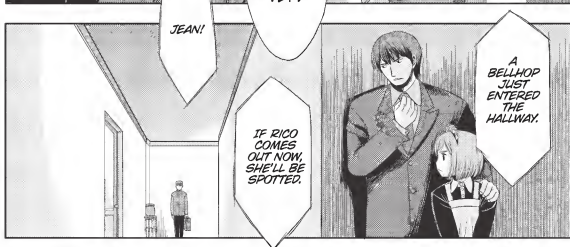


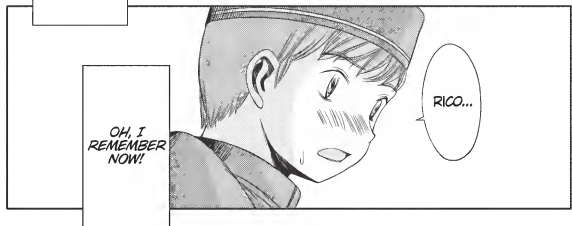
ROOM
SERVICE.









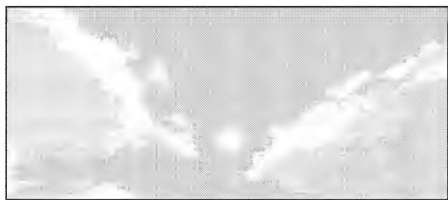




I'M
SORRY.



HUH
?





THERE'S
ONE
THING THAT
ALWAYS
WORRIES
ME WHEN I
WAKE UP.

DOES MY
BODY STILL
WORK? IS
EVERYTHING
STILL
THERE?



OH, GOOD.
IT STILL
MOVES.
IT'S SO
WONDERFUL
TO HAVE A
BODY THAT
DOES WHAT
I WANT
IT TO.



I LOVE MY
LIFE HERE
AT THE
AGENCY.

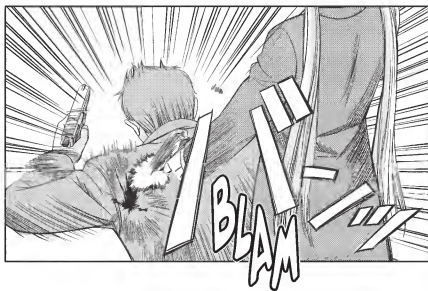
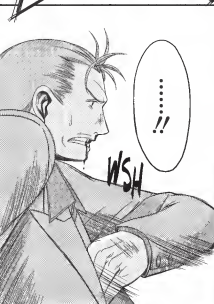
GUNSLINGERGIRL.

GUNSLINGERGIRL



Chapter 3: The Snow White







I ACTED
AS I DID
BECAUSE
I JUDGED
YOU
WERE IN
DANGER.



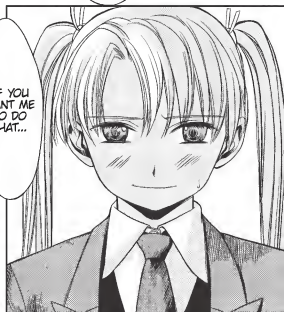
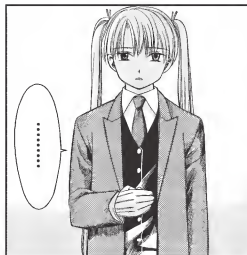
TRIELA!!



I SAID
WE WERE
SIMPLY
GOING
TO TALK!
THAT WAS
ENTIRELY
UNNECES-
SARY!



BUT THERE
WAS STILL
NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
SHOOT HIM!
I KNOW YOU
ARE CAPABLE
OF SUBDUING
A MAN
MUCH MORE
PEACEFULLY
THAN THAT!



CHAPTER 3: THE SNOW WHITE





BUT
EVEN
THAT IS
LEADING
TO
MORE
PRO-
BLEMS.

I WILL
NOT USE
MORE
OF THAT
DRUG ON
HER THAN
ABSOLUTELY
NECESSARY.



NOT THAT
I HAVE
ANY RIGHT
TO SPEAK
ON THE
MATTER...



IF YOU
DON'T
"CONDITION"
HER MORE
THOROUGHLY,
YOU WILL
HAVE TO
MAKE UP
FOR IT WITH
STRICTER
TRAINING.



SHE
CAN SNIFF
OUT A
MAN'S
ULTERIOR
MOTIVES
LIKE A
BLOOD-
HOUND.

TRIELA
IS A
CLEVER
AND
OBSERV-
VANT
ONE.



WHAT
ELSE
CAN I
DO TO
SMOOTH
THINGS
OVER
WITH
HER...?

A
SERIOUS
AND
STUDIOUS
GERMAN
MAN LIKE
YOU? I'D
SUGGEST
YOU DON'T
PUSH IT.



IT LOOKS
LIKE WE
BOTH
ENDED UP
IN A JOB
WE AREN'T
CUT OUT
FOR.



WHAT,
I'VE GOT
THAT
MANY OF
THEM
ALREADY?
HUH...



ONE
MORE,
AND
YOU'LL
HAVE
ALL
SEVEN!

HAPPY,
BASHFUL...



DOPEY,
GRUMPY...

SNEEZY,
SLEEPY...



IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS. IT WOULDN'T BE HARD TO GET HIM TO BUY ONE FOR YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK SIGNORE JOSE FOR ONE?



OOH, THEY'RE SO CUTE! I WISH I HAD ONE...



MAYBE HE THINKS ALL HE HAS TO DO TO CALL HIMSELF A GOOD GUARDIAN IS TO BUY ME STUFF.



WELL, HE NEVER BOTHERS TO ASK ME WHAT I WANT.

AND EVEN THEN, ALL HE EVER DOES IS THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN.



DON'T YOU LIKE GETTING PRESENTS FROM SIGNORE HILSHIRE, TRIELA?

YOU SOUND KINDA DOWN...



HN...?



TRIELA, YOU'RE REALLY PALE... ARE YOU OKAY?



IT DOESN'T EVEN CROSS HIS MIND THAT THERE'S SO MUCH ELSE HE COULD DO...



YEAH, IT'S
OFFICIAL. MY
HORMONES
ARE TOTALLY
OUT OF
WHACK.
GOD, MY
GUTS
HURT...

BUT
WASN'T IT
JUST
THE OTHER
DAY THAT
YOU SAID
IT HADN'T
COME IN
FOREVER
...?

OH...
MY PERIOD
STARTED
YESTERDAY.
NOW I'VE
GOT THE
WORLD'S
WORST
CASE OF
CRAMPS.



THERE
YOU GO,
THAT'S
THE
SPIRIT!

UGH, NOW
IT'S GETTING
WORSE.
MY LITTLE
CONFESSION
A SECOND
AGO MUST'VE
LOOSENED
ME UP TOO
MUCH...



OH NO...
AND WE
CAN'T
TAKE ANY
REGULAR
MEDICINES
EITHER.



HEH
HEH
HEH

BUT
Y'KNOW,
THEY DO
SAY THAT
PAIN'S
PROOF
YOU'RE
STILL ALIVE.
SO I'LL
DEAL
WITH IT.



SORRY.

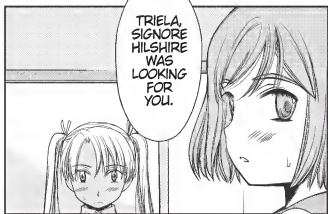
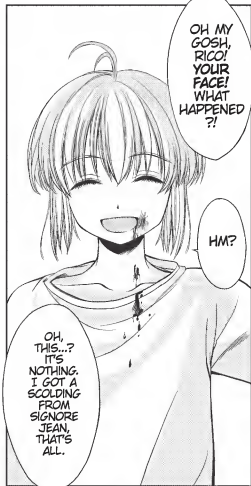
OH
YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT...

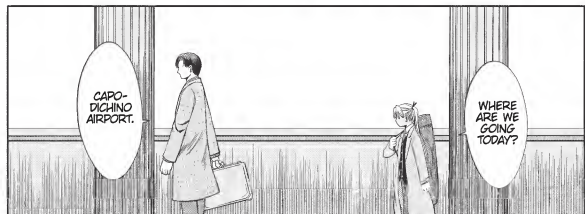


I'D
TRADE
PLACES
WITH
YOU IF I
COULD,
YOU
KNOW...

THEY HAD
TO TAKE IT
ALL OUT, SO
I'LL NEVER
KNOW WHAT
CRAMPS
FEEL LIKE.

WRK.







UNDER-
STOOD.

WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR A
FORMER
CAMORRA
BOSS.



HE
LEFT THE
MOB A FEW
YEARS AGO,
AND HAS
BEEN ON THE
RUN ACROSS
EUROPE
EVER SINCE.
RUMOR HAS IT
THAT HE IS
CURRENTLY
BACK IN
NAPLES.

HIS
NAME IS
MARIO
BOSSI.



PRO-
TEC-
TION?



NO,
WE FIND
HIM AND
BRING
HIM BACK
TO THE
AGENCY
FOR
PROTECTION.

SO WE
NEED TO
FIND THIS
MARIO
AND KILL
HIM,
RIGHT?



IF WE
DON'T FIND
HIM FIRST,
THE
CAMORRA
WILL
ERASE HIM
BEFORE
THE TRIAL..

IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

OBVI-
OUSLY,
THE MOB
WILL DO
ANYTHING
TO KEEP
HIM FROM
MAKING
IT TO COURT.

MARIO
AGREED
TO
TESTIFY
ON THE
CONDITION
OF
IMMUNITY.

A HIGH-
RANKING
CAMORRA
BOSS IS
GOING ON
TRIAL
SOON. THE
PROSECUTION
NEEDS
A WITNESS
WITH INSIDE
INFORMATION.



OKAY...

WE ARE
TO BRING
HIM INTO
OUR
CUSTODY,
AND
PROTECT
HIM UNTIL
THE DAY
OF THE
TRIAL.

EXACTLY.

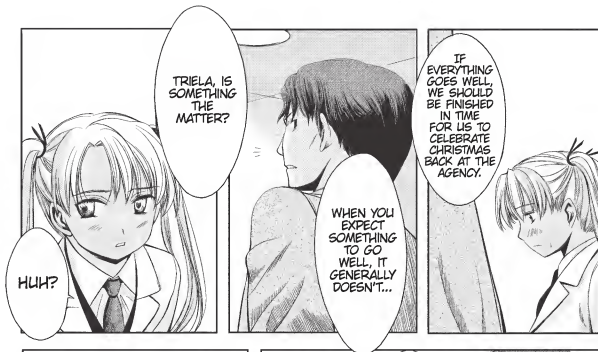


I KNOW
SEVERAL
PLACES
AROUND
THIS CITY
WHERE HE
IS MOST
LIKELY
TO BE.

MARIO
AND I
GO A
LONG
WAY
BACK....



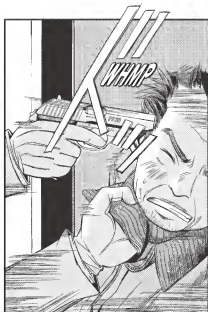
SO WHY'D
WE GET
THIS JOB?
ISN'T THIS
SOMETHING
SECTION 1
USUALLY
DOES?







HELLO,
MARIO.
IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE.



THIS CITY
IS A HOTBED
OF CAMORRA
ACTIVITY.
THEY HAVE
HITMEN AND
DIRTY COPS
ALL OVER
THIS PLACE
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU TURN
YOURSELF
OVER
TO THE
NAPLES
POLICE THE
MINUTE
YOU
ARRIVED?



I'M
SORRY,
BUT IT
WILL HAVE
TO REMAIN
UNDONE.
WE ARE
TAKING YOU
STRAIGHT
TO THE
AGENCY.

HMPH.
THAT'S
AWFULLY
COLD
OF YOU,
HILSHIRE
...

BUT
THERE'S
STUFF I
NEED TO
GET
DONE
AROUND
HERE
FIRST,
OKAY?

LOOK,
I'LL
TAKE THE
STAND
AT THAT
TRIAL
FOR YOU
GUYS.





DON'T
RUSH
ME,
MISSY.
GOD.

MAKE IT
QUICK,
OKAY...?

WHY DO
ALL YOU
AGENCY
TYPES
GOTTA
BE SO
STINGY?

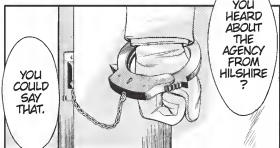


REALLY?
HE DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE
THE TYPE
TO HAVE
FRIENDS IN
THE MOB.

HERE,
LEMMIE TELL
YOU A STORY.
LONG, LONG
AGO, THERE
WAS THIS
HOT-BLOODED
ROOKIE
DETECTIVE IN
EUROPOL.
ONE DAY, HE
CAUGHT HIMSELF
A CAMORRA
BOSS UP IN
AMSTERDAM.



YOU
HEARD
ABOUT
THE
AGENCY
FROM
HILSHIRE
?



YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.

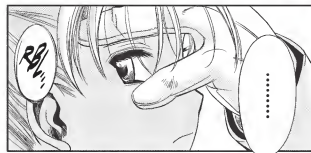
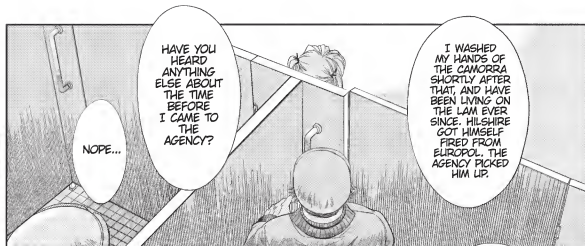


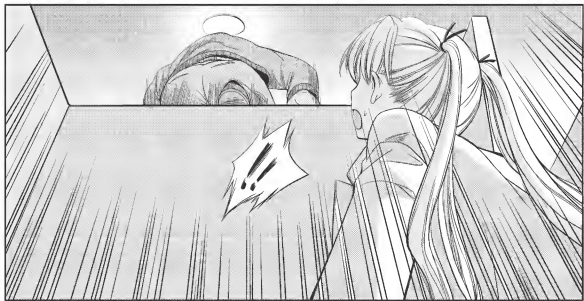
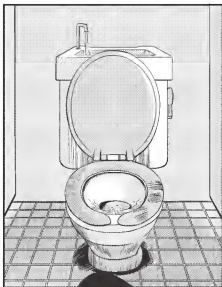
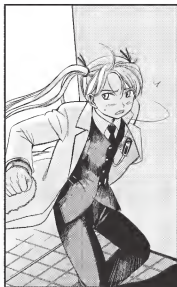
THE
ROOKIE COP
IN THAT
STORY WAS
HILSHIRE.
THE
CAMORRA
HE LET GO
WAS ME.

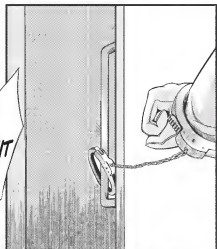
SO
THEY GOT
INTO THE
CHILD SLAVERY
MARKET,
AND STARTED
TRAFFICKING
KIDS ALL
ACROSS
EUROPE VIA
AMSTERDAM.

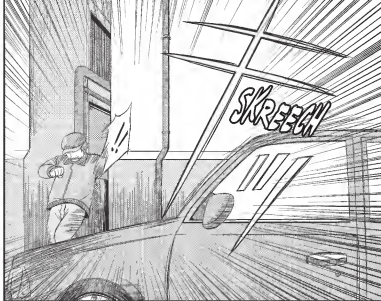
BACK
IN THOSE
DAYS, THE
CAMORRA'S
BLACK
MARKET
TOBACCO
RING WASN'T
BRINGING
ENOUGH
CASH,
Y'SEE.

HE WAS IN
EUROPOL?









GOT
TIRED OF
PLAYIN'
HIDE-
AND-SEEK,
THAT'S
ALL.



THANKS
FOR COMING
BACK TO
NAPLES ALL
ON YOUR
OWN, BY
THE WAY,
YOU MADE
IT A LOT
EASIER
ON US.



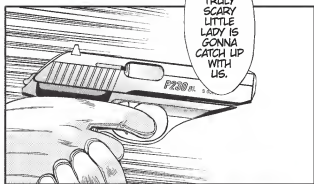
CARELESS
OF YOU,
MARIO,
RUNNING
INTO AN
ABANDONED
AREA LIKE
THIS.



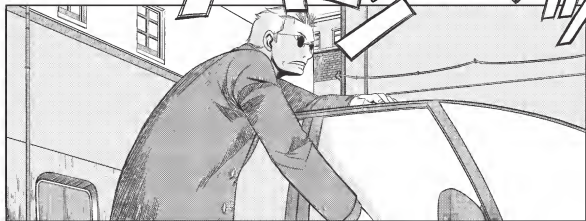
BECAUSE
IF YOU
AREN'T...

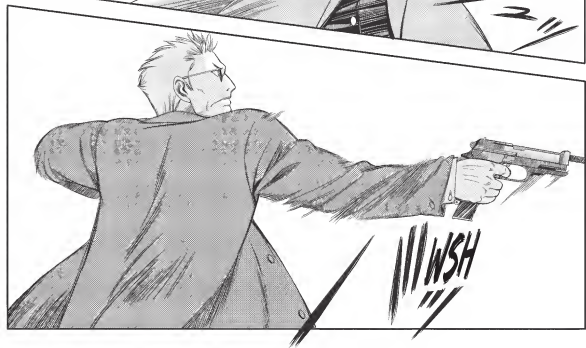
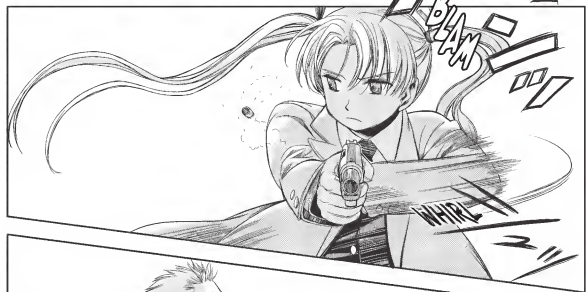
IF YOU
GUYS ARE
GONNA
TAKE ME
SOME-
WHERE,
YOU'D
BEST BE
QUICK
ABOUT
IT.

SAVE
IT. I'LL
LISTEN
TO WHAT
YOU HAVE
TO SAY
LATER.

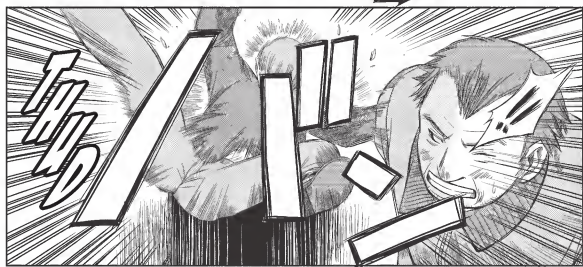


...ONE
TRULY
SCARY
LITTLE
LADY IS
GONNA
CATCH UP
WITH
US.











NAH...
I'M
FINE.

YOU
WEREN'T
HIT BY
ANYTHING,
WERE
YOU?



SNAP

YEESH.
YOU
REALLY
DO LIKE
GETTING
YOURSELF
HAND-
CLIFFED,
DON'T
YOU?



JUST SO
YOU KNOW,
RUN AWAY
FROM ME
LIKE THAT
AGAIN AND
I WILL
SHOOT
YOU.



WHEW



ARE
YOU
GONNA
BE ALL
RIGHT?

AND A
CERTAIN
SOMEBODY
HAD ME
RUNNING
ACROSS
HALF OF
NAPLES
ON TOP OF
THAT.

NO.
IT'S JUST
CRAMPS...



WHY
DON'TCHA
STOP
WORRYING
ABOUT ME
AND START
WORRYING
ABOUT
YOU!!
YOU'RE AS
PALE AS
MILK!

YOU'RE
SHOT.
THEY
DIDN'T HIT
ANYTHING
IMPORT-
TANT,
DID THEY?



BUT
RELAX.
SEE?

I'M NOT
LEAKING
GREEN
OOZE OR
ANYTHING.
I'LL LIVE.



WELL,
OKAY.
MAYBE
I'M
NOT SO
FINE...



I'M
FINE...



YOUR
DAUGHTER
?

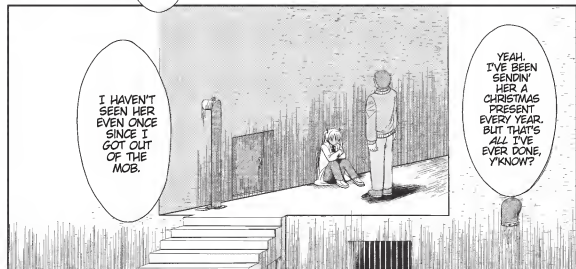


I CAME
TO SEE MY
DAUGHTER.



HEY,
MARIO?

WHAT'S SO
IMPORTANT
FOR YOU
TO DO HERE
IN NAPLES?
I MEAN,
YOU HAD
TO KNOW
IT WAS
STUPIDLY
DANGEROUS.



I HAVEN'T
SEEN HER
EVEN ONCE
SINCE I
GOT OUT OF
THE
MOB.

YEAH.
I'VE BEEN
SENDIN'
HER A
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT
EVERY YEAR.
BUT THAT'S
ALL I'VE
EVER DONE,
Y'KNOW?





BUT BE
NICE TO
YOUR
DAUGHTER,
OKAY...?

NOBODY
SAID IT WAS
SOMETHING
YOU HAD
ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE.



I'M
SORRY...

I KNOW
IT'S NOT
SOMETHIN'
YOU COULD
EVER
FORGIVE
ME FOR,
SO I AIN'T
GONNA
ASK.



I KNOW
YOU MIGHT
NOT
WANNA,
BUT TRY
TO GET
ALONG
WITH
HILSHIRE,
EH?

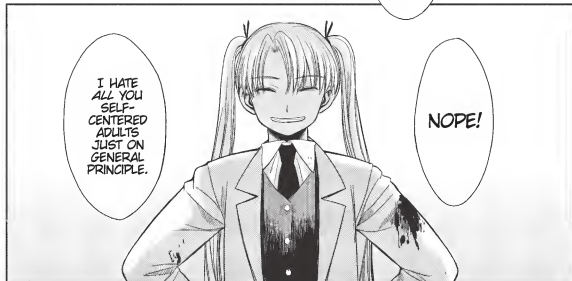
YOU
TOO,
MISSY...



REALLY?

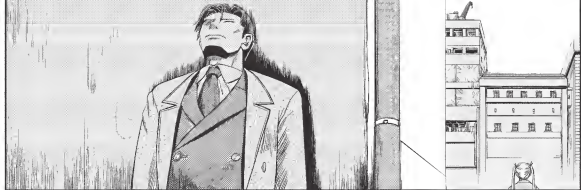
IT'S NOT
LIKE I
HAVE ANY
SPECIAL
HATRED
OF HIM.

HEY.
NOW
LISTEN
...



I HATE
ALL YOU
SELF-
CENTERED
ADULTS
JUST ON
GENERAL
PRINCIPLE.

NOPE!



HE
LOOKED
A LITTLE
SAD
WHEN HE
HEARD
THAT,
THOUGH.

I
SEE...

I ALWAYS
HAVE A
DIFFICULT
TIME COMING
UP WITH
GOOD
PRESENTS
FOR YOU, SO
I THOUGHT
I WOULD
ASK.

I COULDN'T
TELL YOU
WHY, BUT
THAT ONE
DAY I DIDN'T
REALLY
MIND HIS
ATTEMPT TO
BRIBE ME
INTO LIKING
HIM.

AH WELL.
I GUESS
IT'S ALL
RIGHT FOR
THERE TO
BE A DAY
LIKE THAT
ONCE A
YEAR.

YOU
COULD
GET ME
ANOTHER
TEDDY BEAR
FOR
CHRISTMAS,
LIKE YOU
ALWAYS DO.
I WOULDN'T
MIND.

I'VE BEEN
NAMING
THEM AFTER
THE SEVEN
DWARFS,
AND...

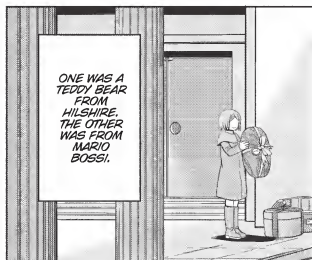
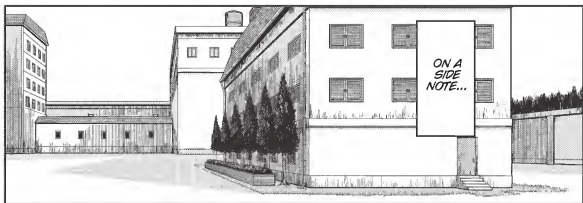
I COULD
GET YOU
SOMETHING
PRETTIER,
IF YOU
WANT.
SOME NICE
DRESSES,
PERHAPS?
OR SOME
SANDALS?

NOW THAT
I THINK
ABOUT IT,
I HAVE
ONLY EVER
GIVEN YOU
MASCULINE
FORMAL
WEAR.

HIS
QUESTION
TOOK ME
COM-
PLETELY
BY
SURPRISE.
ALL I
COULD
ANSWER
WAS...

I...
I LIKE
HAVING
A TIE TO
TIE IN THE
MORNING.
IT HELPS ME
TO FOCUS
AND GET
READY FOR
THE DAY.

AND, UM,
I LIKE
THE HEAVY
SOUND OF
MY BOOTS
HITTING THE
PAVEMENT
TOO.



ONE WAS A
TEDDY BEAR
FROM
HILSHIRE.
THE OTHER
WAS FROM
MARIO
BOSSI.



FOR
CHRISTMAS
THAT YEAR,
I HAD TWO
PRESENTS.

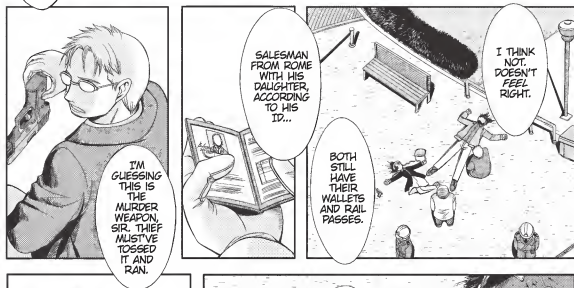


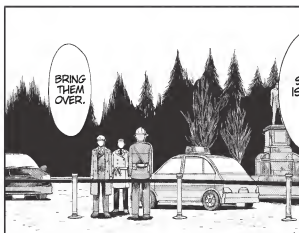
SO INSTEAD
OF HAVING
JUST
ENOUGH
TEDDY BEARS
FOR THE
SEVEN
DWARFS,
I WOUND UP
WITH EIGHT.

I KNEW I
SHOULD'VE
ASKED
HILSHIRE TO
GET ME
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT.

GUNSLINGERGIRL.

GUNSLINGERGIRL





*SISDE = Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Democratica



The girl has a mechanical body. However, she is still an adolescent child.

GUNSLINGER GIRL.

ガンズリンガー・ガール



CHAPTER 4: THE DEATH OF ELSA DE SICA, PART 1



SO WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT WANT WITH THIS LITTLE MYSTERY OF OURS?



SO YOU ARE THE ONE ASSIGNED TO THIS CASE?

YES, THAT'D BE ME, SIR. INSPECTOR BARACCI.



ACCORD-
INGLY,
WE
WILL BE
TAKING IT
OVER.

THIS MURDER MAY BE CONNECTED TO A MUCH LARGER CASE WE ARE PURSUING.



THE REST OF US WILL GO BACK TO ENJOYING OUR CHRISTMAS VACATION.



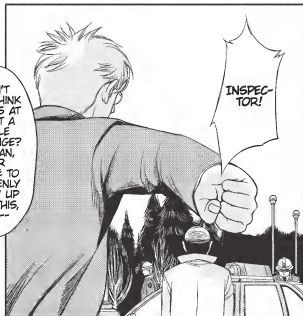
ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK HAS BEEN SIGNED, HERE.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN SHE'S ALL YOURS, SIR.

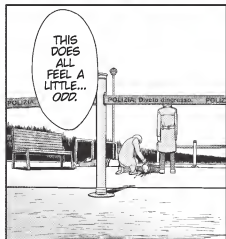


LEAVE IT BE.

DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS AT LEAST A LITTLE STRANGE? I MEAN, FOR SOME TO SUDDENLY SHOW UP LIKE THIS, AND--



INSPECTOR!



THIS DOES ALL FEEL A LITTLE... ODD.



ALTHOUGH, YOU DO HAVE A POINT...



THEY'RE VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE ON A ROUGH CASE. NO REASON TO FIGHT THEM OVER IT.



AND THEY'RE DEFINITELY TOO EAGER TO BE OUT WORKING DURING THE HOLIDAYS...

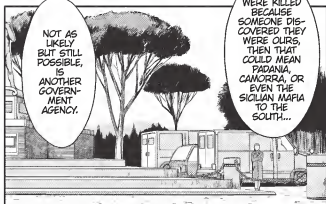
THEIR RESPONSE TIME WAS TOO FAST, EVEN FOR AN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.





IT'S THE PERFECT EXCUSE FOR THEM TO RENEW THEIR CRITICISMS OF US.

TRUE. THIS IS THE FIRST CYBORG LOST IN COMBAT.



NOT AS LIKELY BUT STILL POSSIBLE, IS ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

IF THEY WERE KILLED BECAUSE SOMEONE DISCOVERED THEY WERE OURS, THEN THAT COULD MEAN PADANIA, CAMORRA, OR EVEN THE SICILIAN MAFIA TO THE SOUTH...



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO ACTUALLY DID IT. SECTION 1'S DRAGHI IS GOING TO SAY SOMETHING, AND IT ISN'T GOING TO BE FLATTERING.



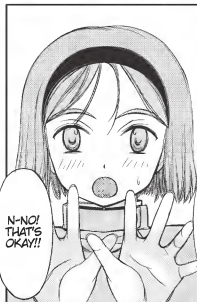
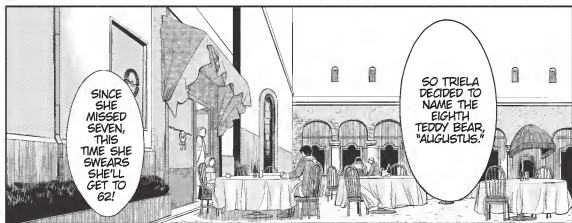
THERE'S ANOTHER POSSIBILITY...

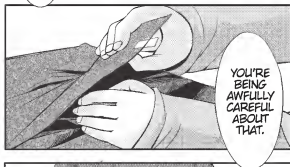
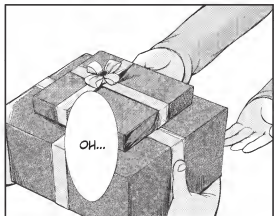
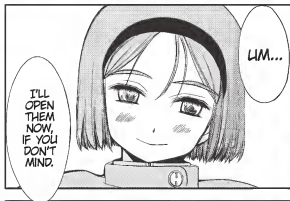
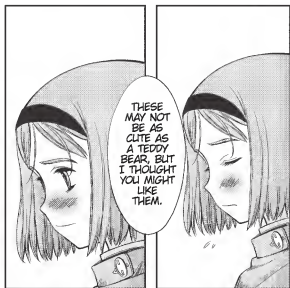
SECTION 1 CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

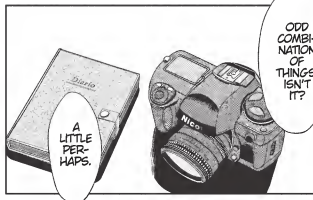


I'M GOING TO RETURN TO HEAD-QUARTERS, AND REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.

ONCE YOU'RE FINISHED WITH THE SCENE, BRING IN THE BODIES.







A
LITTLE
PER-
HAPS.

ODD
COMBI-
NATION
OF
THINGS,
ISN'T
IT?



A
CAMERA...

AND A
JOURNAL?



AFTER
ALL,
YOU'VE
GOTTEN
PRETTY
FORGET-
FUL
LATELY.

BUT WITH
THESE,
NOW YOU
CAN KEEP
A DIARY
OF WHAT
YOU DO
EVERY
DAY.



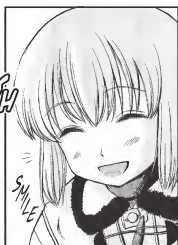
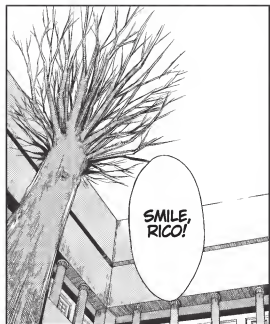
THAT'S
A
GREAT
IDEA!

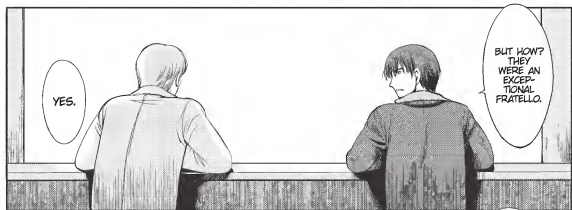
THANK
YOU!
I LOVE
THEM!

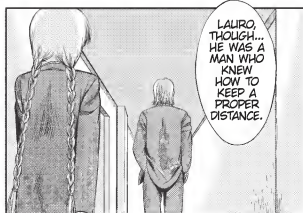
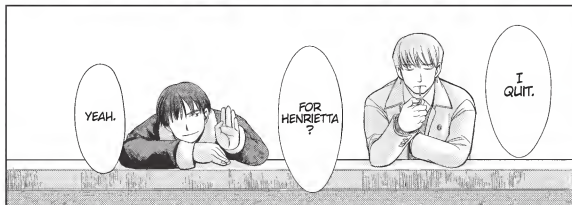
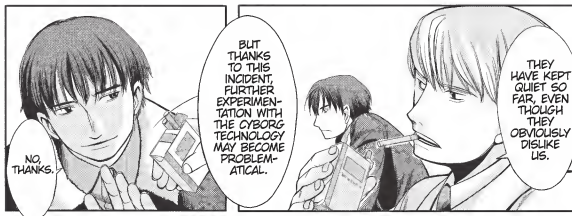


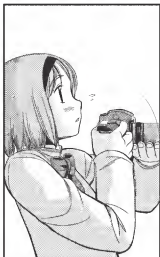
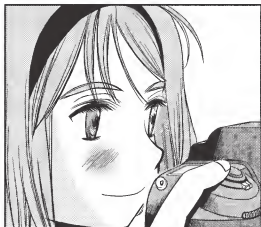
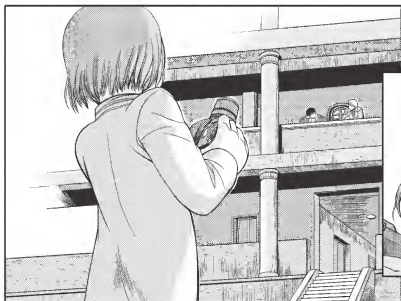
YOU CAN
ASK
SOMEONE
IN THE
AGENCY IF
IT'S ALL
RIGHT TO
TAKE
PICTURES...

PI
PI
PI









IT
SOUNDS
LIKE YOU
HAD A
REFRESHING
VACATION.
GOOD.

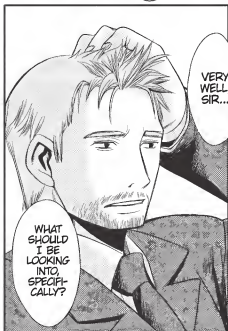
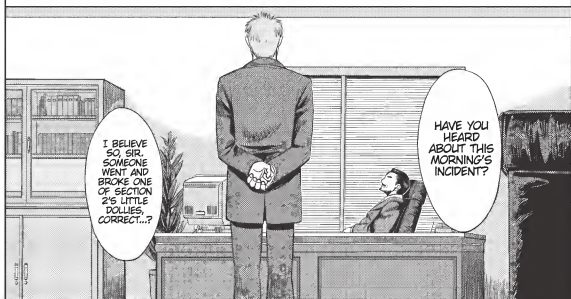


I
PARTICU-
LARLY
ENJOYED
THE
SWORDFISH
FILLETS,
ACCOMPA-
NIED WITH
A FINE
GRECO DI
GELACHE.



HOW WAS
CATAN-
ZARO,
PIETRO?
DID YOU
ENJOY
YOURSELF
?

YES,
CHIEF.







WELCOME.
I HAVE BEEN
INSTRUCTED
TO GIVE YOU
COMPLETE
COOPERATION
IN WHATEVER
YOU
REQUIRE.

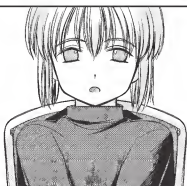
SECTION 1'S
FERMI AND
GABRIELLI.



THAT'S A
WORSE
COMBINA-
TION THAN
COLOGNE
ON A
FRIAR.



THE GIRL
SMELLED
LIKE GUN
SMOKE.



YES.
I HAVE
NO
LAST
NAME.

SO YOUR
NAME IS...
RICO?

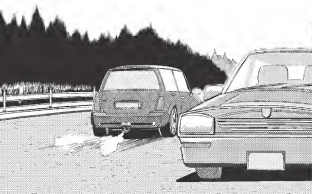


THEY ARE
FREE TO
GIVE THEM
A BOY'S
NAME IF
THEY SO
WISH.

A
CYBORG'S
NAME IS
AT THE
DISCRE-
TION OF
HER
HANDLER.



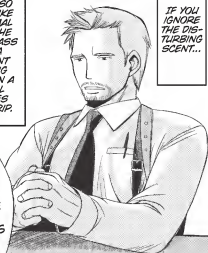
BUT...
YOU'RE A
GIRL?



THIS CYBORG LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE A NORMAL GIRL, SHE COULD PASS FOR A STUDENT VISITING HERE ON A SOCIAL STUDIES FIELD TRIP.

IF YOU IGNORE THE DISTURBING SCENT...

LET'S GO TO THE SCENE. I'LL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU THERE.



WE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING THAT...



HAS SECTION 2 FOUND ANY POSSIBLE SUSPECTS YET?

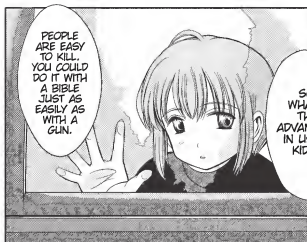
SO...



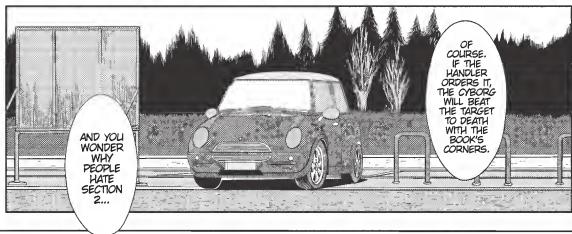
I SEE.

WE HAVE ENEMIES ALL OVER ITALY.

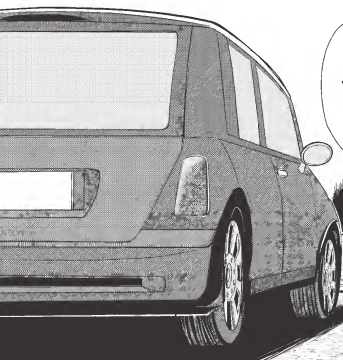
OUR JOB IS TO KILL PEOPLE, AFTER ALL.



SO, WHAT'S THE ADVANTAGE IN USING KIDS?



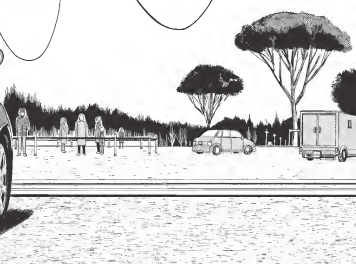
OF COURSE. IF THE HANDLER ORDERS IT, THE CYBORG WILL BEAT THE TARGET TO DEATH WITH THE BOOK'S CORNERS.

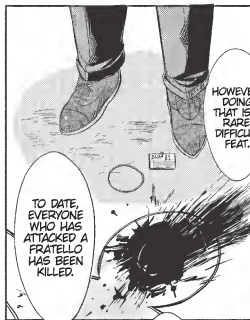


YES.

WASN'T DURABILITY ONE OF THEIR SELLING POINTS?

ANYWAY...





TO DATE,
EVERYONE
WHO HAS
ATTACKED A
FRATELLO
HAS BEEN
KILLED.

HOWEVER,
DOING
THAT IS A
RARE,
DIFFICULT
FEAT.



DAMAGE
THEIR
BRAINS,
AND
JUST LIKE
NORMAL
HUMANS,
THEY
WILL
DIE.

HOWEVER,
THE
COMPLICATED
MECHANICS
AROUND
THEIR EYES
MAKES THAT
A WEAK
POINT.

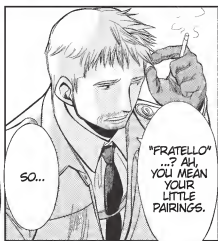


IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

CAN
SOMEONE
GET STUCK
WITH A
BLOOKEAD
FOR A
CYBORG?
DURABILITY IS
MOOT IF SHE'S
STUPID
ENOUGH TO
LEAVE HER
EYES
VULNER-
ABLE.



DO
THESE
KIDS
MAKE THE
DECISION
TO DRAW
THEIR
WEAPONS
ON THEIR
OWN?



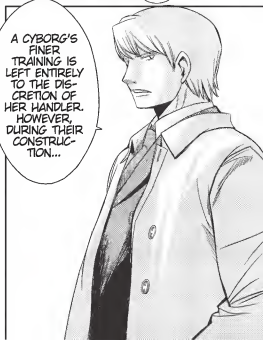
SO...

"FRATELLO"
...? AH,
YOU MEAN
YOUR
LITTLE
PAIRINGS.

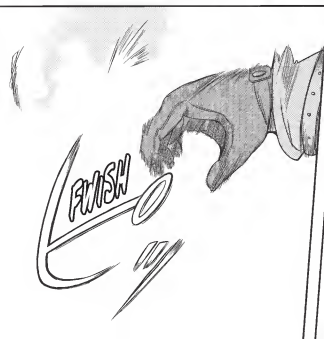
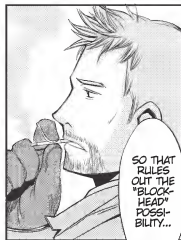
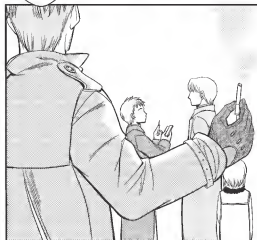
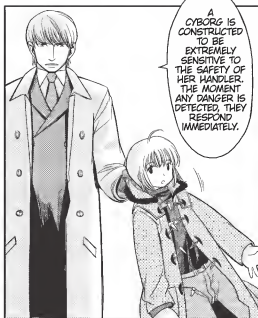


THEIR
"CONDI-
TIONING,"
YES?

SPECIALIZED
DRUGS ARE
USED TO
IMPRINT A
BASE LEVEL
OF SKILL
INTO THEM.



A CYBORG'S
FINER
TRAINING IS
LEFT ENTIRELY
TO THE DIS-
CRETION OF
HER HANDLER.
HOWEVER,
DURING THEIR
CONSTRUC-
TION...





RICO...

HOLSTER
YOUR
WEAPON.



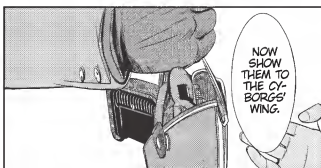
FERMI, I
APPLAUD
YOUR CU-
RIOSITY.

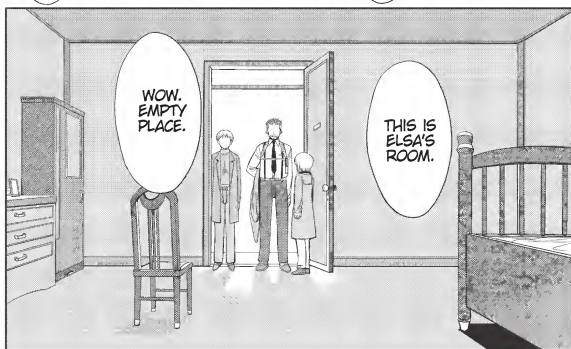


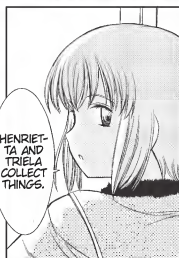
.....

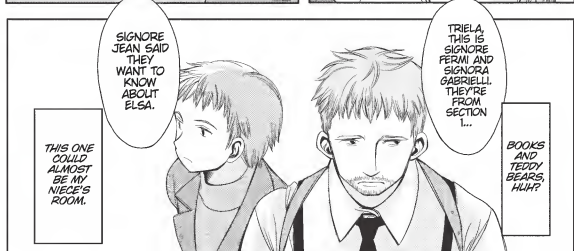
I SEE.

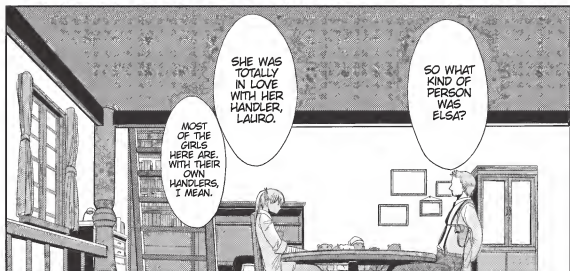




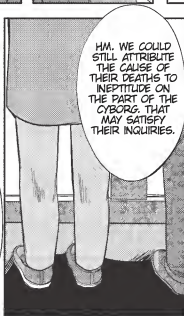
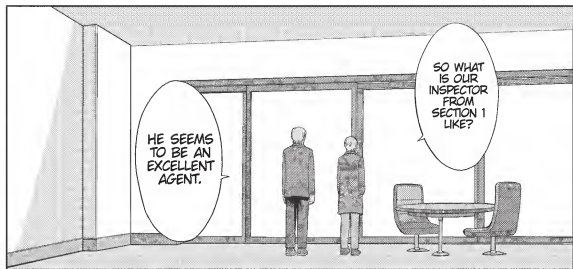


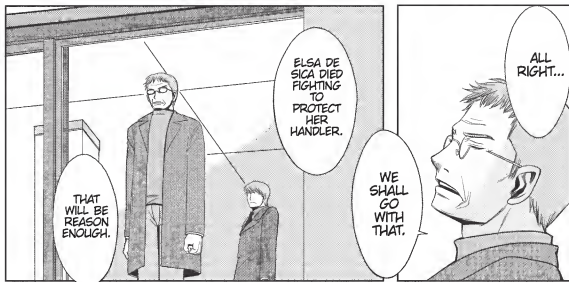














BUT IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE TERRORISTS SET AN AMBUSH FOR THEM AT THE PARK.



WE ARE UNSURE OF HOW THEIR LOCATION WAS DISCOVERED...



WELL, MY BOSS'LL PROBABLY BE SATISFIED WITH THAT ANSWER.



HN. HAPPY FOR THE CHANCE TO DIE FOR HER MASTER...



DEVELOPING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CYBORGS' EYES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE OUR NEXT PROJECT.



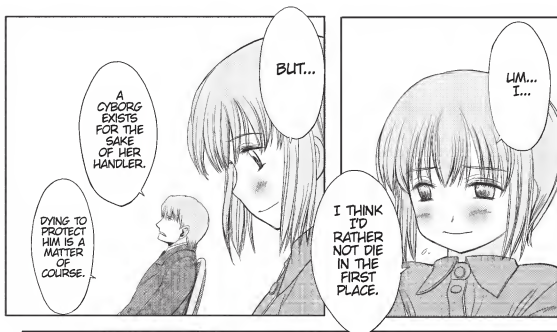
ELSA FOUGHT TO PROTECT LAIRO, BUT IT DID NOT PROVE TO BE ENOUGH.

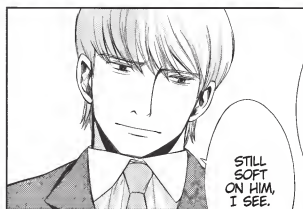
SHE WAS KILLED.



IF YOU WERE KILLED WHILE FIGHTING TO PROTECT JEAN, WOULD THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?

HEY, RICO...

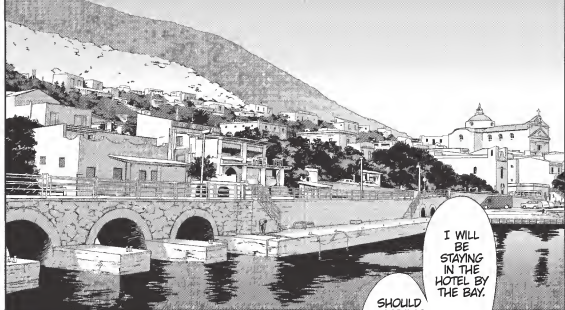






CHAPTER 5: THE DEATH OF ELSA DE SICA, PART 2





I WILL
BE
STAYING
IN THE
HOTEL BY
THE BAY.

SHOULD
ANYTHING
HAPPEN,
CALL ME.
I WILL
COME
IMMEDIATE-
LY.



THERE IS
THE INCIDENT
WITH
ELSA.

YOU
CANNOT
BE TOO
CAREFUL.

AS LONG
AS WE KEEP
OUR HEADS
DOWN,
NOBODY
WILL GUESS
WHO WE
ARE.



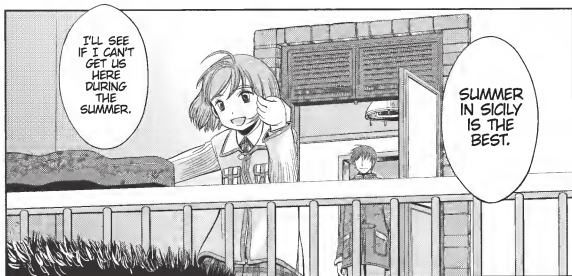
YES,
MA'AM

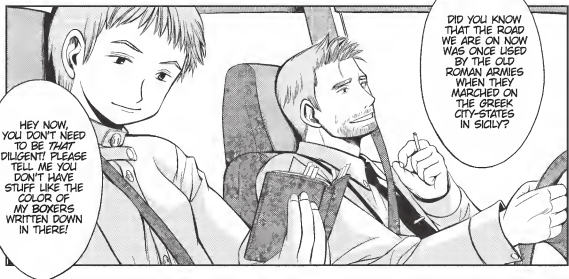
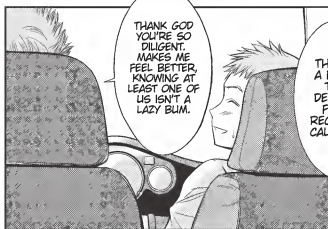
HENRIETTA,
STAY ALERT.
PROTECT
JOSE NO
MATTER
WHAT, UN-
DERSTOOD?



WE'LL BE
FINE, FERRO.
THERE IS
NO NEED
FOR YOU TO
WORRY SO
MUCH.









WHAT,
THINKING
OF
QUITTING
AND
BECOMING
A TOUR
GUIDE?



GOD...

THIS
SURE
ISN'T A
PLACE
YOU VISIT
FOR
WORK.



"HERE IN
SICILY, IT
FEELS AS
IF YOU
ARE THE
CENTER
OF THE
WORLD."

DEFI-
NITELY...

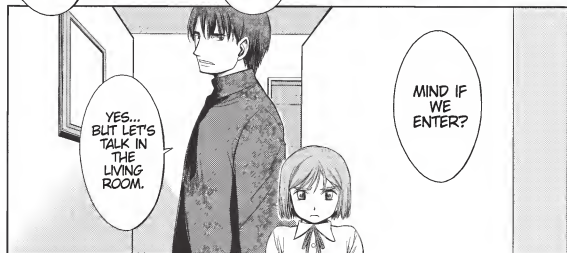


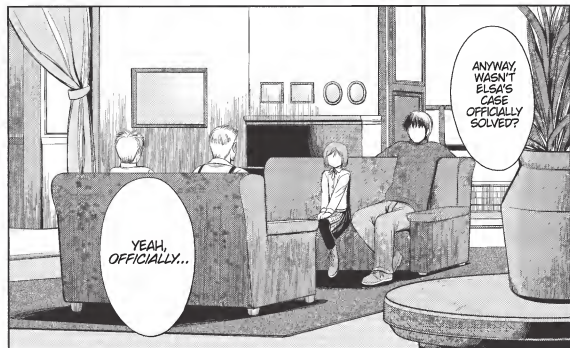
WHO
ARE
YOU?

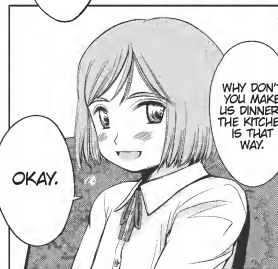
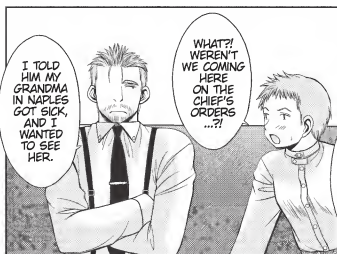
.....



HOPE
THEY'RE
ACTUALLY
HERE...











HOWEVER,
I DO NOT
USE
EXCESSIVE
AMOUNTS OF
THE DRUG
TO COMPEL
HER LOYALTY
TO ME.

NOR
DO I
FORCE
HER TO
LOVE
ME.



SO DID
YOU DO IT
THE SAME
WAY
LAURO
AND THE
OTHER
GUYS
DID?

USE
DRUGS
AND BRAIN-
WASHING
TO MAKE
HER LOVE
YOU?



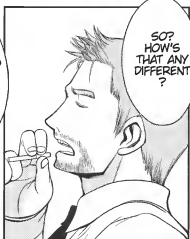
THE
CYBORG'S
"CONDIT-
TIONING"
IS ABSO-
LUTELY
REQUIRED.

HENRIETTA
IS NO
EXCEP-
TION.

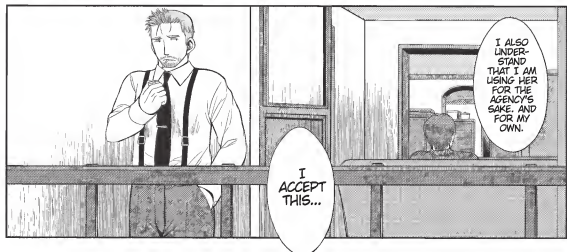


I
UNDER-
STAND
THAT.

JUST
BECAUSE
YOU ONLY DO
IT A LITTLE
DOESN'T
MAKE IT
FORGIVABLE.

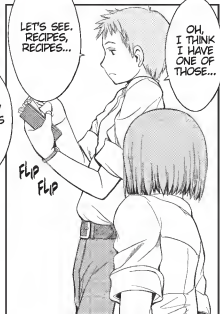
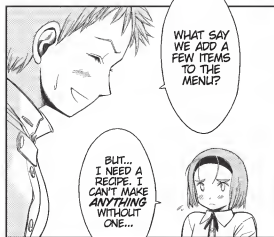
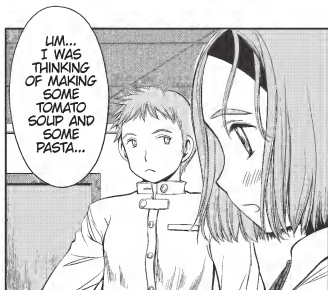


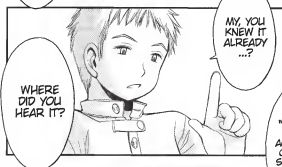
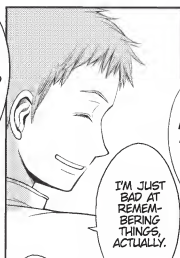
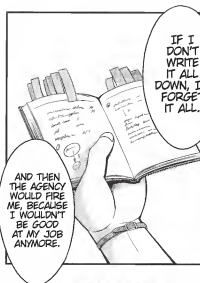
SO?
HOW'S
THAT ANY
DIFFERENT
?

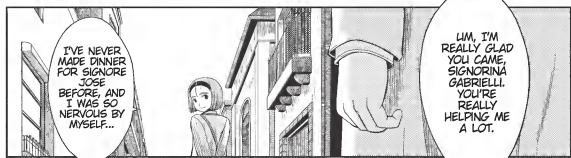


I ALSO
UNDER-
STAND
THAT I AM
USING HER
FOR THE
AGENCY'S
SAKE, AND
FOR MY
OWN.

I
ACCEPT
THIS...









BUT WHEN
IT'S FOR
SIGNORE
JOSE, THEN
I JUST
WANT TO
DO THEM.

WHEN
I GET
ORDERS
FROM THE
AGENCY, I
FEEL LIKE I
HAVE TO
DO THEM.



MAYBE
...

BUT I'M
HAPPY
RIGHT NOW,
SO I DON'T
MIND HOW
"REAL" IT IS
OR ISN'T.



IS THIS A
TEXTBOOK
CASE OF
A MAIDEN
HEAD-
OVER-
HEELS IN
LOVE OR
WHAT?

OH
BOY...

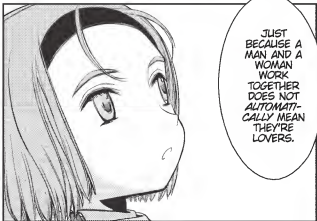


UH,
HENRI-
ETTA...

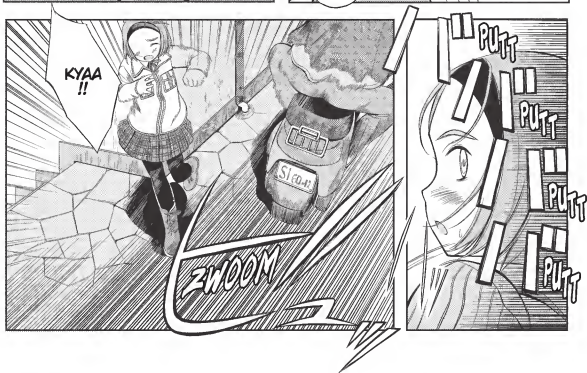


WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
SIGNORINA
GABRIELLI?

SIGNORE
FERMI IS
YOUR
LOVER,
RIGHT?



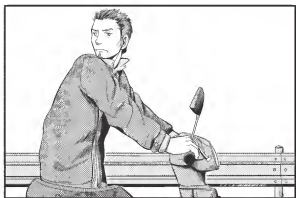
JUST
BECAUSE A
MAN AND A
WOMAN
WORK
TOGETHER
DOES NOT
AUTOMATI-
CALLY MEAN
THEY'RE
LOVERS.



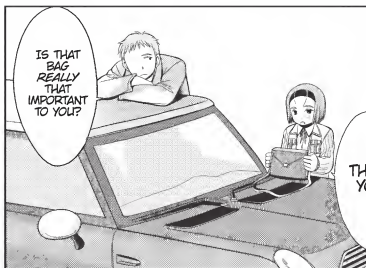






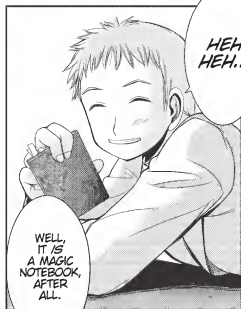
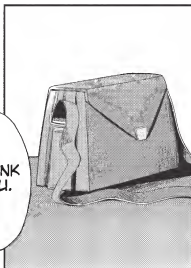






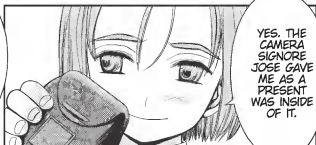
IS THAT
BAG
REALLY
THAT
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?

THANK
YOU.



HEH
HEH...

WELL,
IT IS
A MAGIC
NOTEBOOK,
AFTER
ALL.

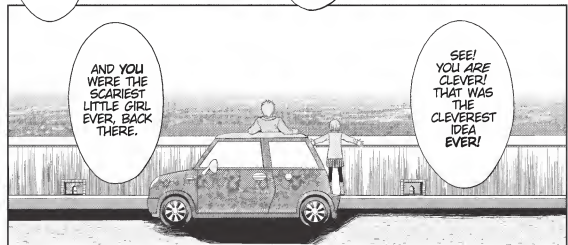


YES. THE
CAMERA
SIGNORA
JOSE GAVE
ME AS A
PRESENT
INSIDE
OF IT.



UM,
SIGNORINA
GABRIELL?
WHEN YOU
FLASHED
YOUR BADGE
BEFORE,
WAS THAT
ACTUALLY...?

AHH...



AND YOU
WERE THE
SCARIEST
LITTLE GIRL
EVER, BACK
THERE.

SEE!
YOU ARE
CLEVER!
THAT WAS
THE
CLEVEREST
IDEA
EVER!



WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHY ARE YOU SO CONVINCED THERE'S SOMETHING "FISHY" ABOUT IT?

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT ELISA'S DEATH, JOSE?



THE CASE REPORT SAID THE TWO WERE AMBUSHED, REMEMBER?

THE CYBORGS CERTAINLY HAVE MANY OF THEIR SENSES AND ABILITIES STRENGTHENED BEYOND HUMAN LIMITS, YES. BUT IF THEY ARE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, THOSE ENHANCEMENTS AMOUNT TO PRECIOUS LITTLE.



HOW BLOODY NEAT THE WHOLE SOLUTION IS, I GUESS. IT'S TOO NEAT.

HMM... IT'S HARD TO PUT INTO WORDS, BUT...

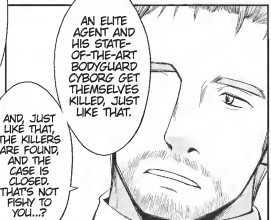


I EVEN GOT A LIVE DEMONSTRATION. RICO MOVED LIKE LIGHTNING TO SHIELD HIM.

MAYBE. BUT JEAN DID TELL ME THAT CYBORGS ARE INCREDIBLY SENSITIVE TO ANY DANGER WHEN THEY'RE WITH THEIR HANDLERS.

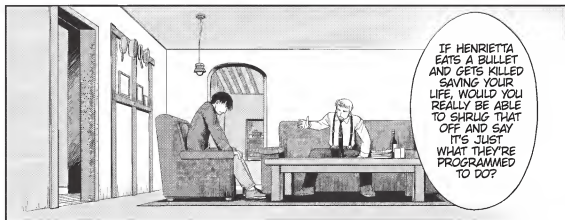
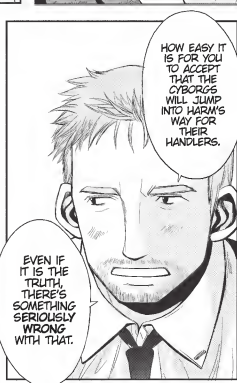
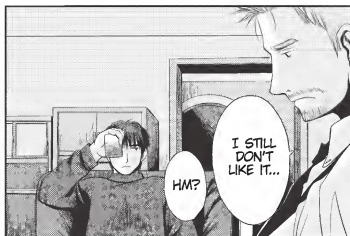


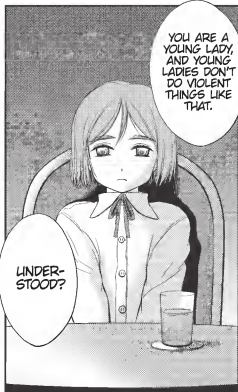
WHAT, ARE YOU A CONSPIRACY THEORIST NOW?



AN ELITE AGENT AND HIS STATE-OF-THE-ART BODYGUARD CYBORG GET THEMSELVES KILLED, JUST LIKE THAT.

AND, JUST LIKE THAT, THE KILLERS ARE FOUND, AND THE CASE IS CLOSED. THAT'S NOT FISHY TO YOU...?





YOU ARE A
YOUNG LADY,
AND YOUNG
LADIES DON'T
DO VIOLENT
THINGS LIKE
THAT.

UNDER-
STOOD?



I'M GLAD
EVERYONE
LIKED OUR
COOKING.

YES, THOUGH
WE DID HAVE
VARIOUS, ER,
TROUBLES
BEFORE
WE COULD
MAKE IT.



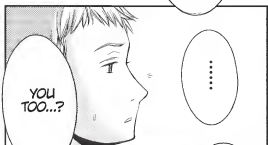
OH, AND
HENRIET-
TA...?

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO TEARING
OFF ANY-
MORE LIKE
YOU DID.
IT ISN'T
RIGHT.



WHEN WE
FIRST GOT
HERE,
SIGNORE
JOSE TOOK
ALL MY
GUNS
AWAY.

WELL,
YOU
ARE
ONE.



YOU
TOO...?

...



BUT...

HE SAID
NORMAL
GIRLS
SHOULDN'T
BE CARRYING
THOSE
THINGS
AROUND...

AND HE'S
RIGHT...
NORMAL
GIRLS
SHOULDN'T.



SIGNORINA
GABRIELLI...

YOU'RE
TRYING TO
MAKE ME
BE A
LITTLE GIRL,
AREN'T
YOU?



I'M
STRONGER
THAN EVEN
GROWN-UP
MEN...AND I
CAN KILL
PEOPLE WITH
MY BARE
HANDS...

MY BODY
IS A
MACHINE.
HOW IS
THAT
"NORMAL"?

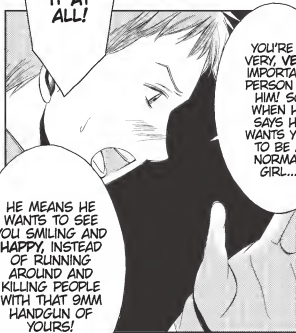


BUT THE
PAIN GOES
AWAY
REALLY
FAST.

SURE,
IF I
GET CUT,
RED
BLOOD
COMES
OUT...



THAT'S
NOT
IT AT
ALL!



YOU'RE A
VERY, VERY
IMPORTANT
PERSON TO
HIM! SO
WHEN HE
SAYS HE
WANTS YOU
TO BE A
NORMAL
GIRL...

HE MEANS HE
WANTS TO SEE
YOU SMILING
AND
HAPPY, INSTEAD
OF RUNNING
AROUND AND
KILLING PEOPLE
WITH THAT 9MM
HANDGUN OF
YOURS!



I'M A
CYBORG...
I'M
SUPPOSED
TO BE
USEFUL, AND
PROTECT
SIGNORE
JOSE.

I CAN'T
DO THAT
IF I
HAVE TO
BE A
NORMAL
GIRL...



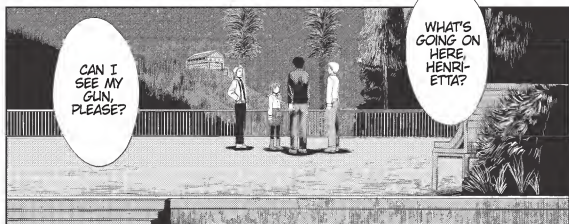
COULD
YOU ASK
EVERYONE TO
COME HERE?
OH, AND, UM,
CAN YOU
BRING ME
MY GUN...?

UM...

I THINK I
KNOW WHY
ELSA DIED.



SIGNORINA
GABRIELLI...



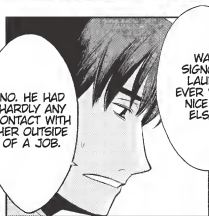
CAN I
SEE MY
GUN,
PLEASE?

WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE,
HENRI-
ETTA?



EXPLA-
NATION
FIRST!

NO!





THEN...



IF I HAD
SOMEBODY
I REALLY,
REALLY
LOVED A
LOT...

AND I
FOUND OUT
THAT THIS
LOVE WOULD
NEVER,
EVER BE
RETURNED...



AND
AFTER
HE
WAS
DEAD...



I'D
KILL
HIM.



I'D DO
THIS.





ARE YOU
SURE...?



I'M NOT
REALLY
GOING TO
SHOOT
MYSELF.

I KNOW I
HAD A HARD
TIME TELLING
JUST HOW
SERIOUS
YOU MIGHT
HAVE BEEN.



YOU'RE
REALLY
NICE TO
ME,
SIGNORE
JOSE...

I DON'T
HAVE ANY
REASON
TO
COMMIT
SUICIDE.

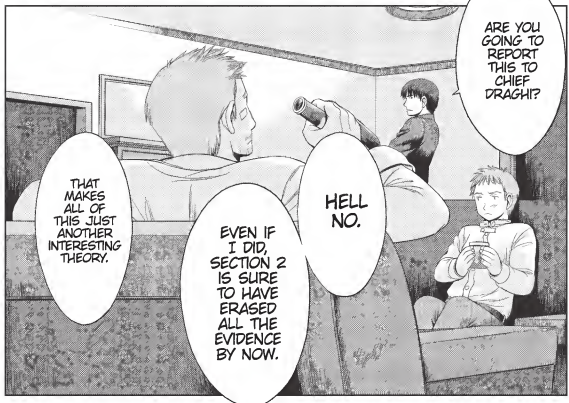


THEN IT'S AN
EVEN SADDER
STORY THAN
THE ONE
WHERE SHE
GOT SHOT
TRYING TO
DEFEND
THE GUY.

YEAH.
AND IF
THAT'S
WHAT
REALLY
HAP-
PENED...



SO THAT
WAS THE
SECRET
OF THE
TWO
SHOTS
FIRED...

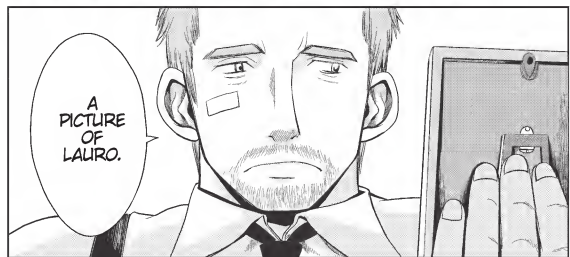
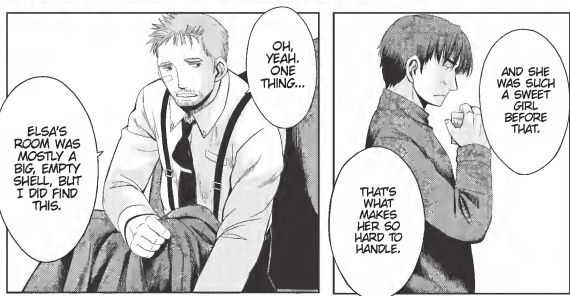
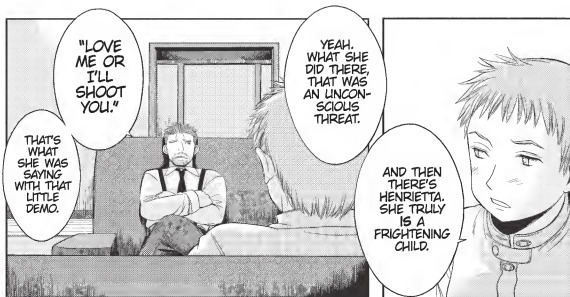


THAT
MAKES
ALL OF
THIS JUST
ANOTHER
INTERESTING
THEORY.

EVEN IF
I DID,
SECTION 2
IS SURE
TO HAVE
ERASED
ALL THE
EVIDENCE
BY NOW.

HELL
NO.

ARE YOU
GOING TO
REPORT
THIS TO
CHIEF
DRAGHI?





YOU HAVE
TO DO
YOUR BEST
ALWAYS
TO BE
SOMEONE
SHE CAN
LOOK UP
TO AND
RESPECT.

IT'S ONE
OF THE FEW
THINGS WE
CAN REALLY
DO FOR
THEM.



ALL SHE
EVER
RECEIVED
FROM HIM
WAS A
PICTURE
AND A
NAME.

SO,
IN THE
END...



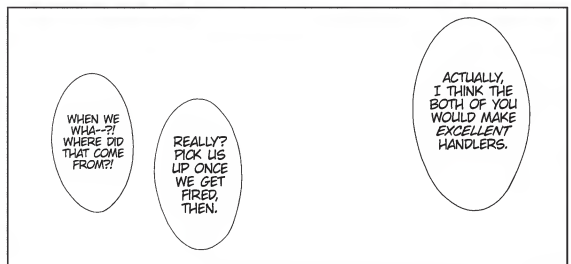
A NORMAL
GUY'S
NERVES
WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
HANDLE IT.

THINK OF
IT FROM
LAURO'S
SIDE. BEING
LOVED THAT
DEVOTEDLY
ISN'T AN
EASY
THING.



DON'T
YOU
AGREE,
ELENORA
...?

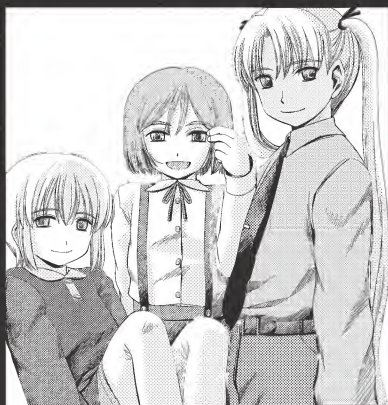
Y'KNOW
WHAT?
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
CYBORGS.



WHEN WE
WHA--?!
WHERE DID
THAT COME
FROM?!

REALLY?
PICK US
UP ONCE
WE GET
FIRED,
THEN.

ACTUALLY,
I THINK THE
BOTH OF YOU
WOULD MAKE
EXCELLENT
HANDLERS.



TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Padania was originally the name of a valley in northern Italy around the River Po. However, the name took on heavy political connotations in the early 1990s with the formation of the *Lega Nord* (lit. “Northern League”) political party. Advocates of turning Italy into a federal state, the *Lega Nord* has at times proposed that Northern Italy secede entirely to become an independent nation called “Padania.” While the real life Padania party has sometimes expressed a violent rhetoric, it is not nearly to the level depicted here in *Gunslinger Girl*.

CHAPTER 2

A **brass catcher** is a bag-like attachment that catches the spent shells of a gun, so they won’t scatter around the ground of the nearby area.

Étude is an instrumental musical composition designed for learning and practicing a particular technical skill. By this, Henrietta means that she can barely play a practice piece, much less an actual performance piece of music.

CHAPTER 3

Europol is the European Union’s criminal intelligence agency. Though it was started in 1994, it wasn’t fully operational until 1999. Based in the Hague, it has relatively few agents of its own. However, it is in constant liaison with law enforcement agencies throughout Europe, each with their own agents specifically assigned to assist Europol.

CHAPTER 4

SISDE (*Servizio per le Informazioni e la Sicurezza Democratica*) was the Italian domestic intelligence agency, equivalent to the United States’ FBI. Operational between 1977 and 2007, government reforms recently replaced SISDE with AISI (*Agenzia Informazioni e Sicurezza Interna*).



***GUNSLINGER GIRL* RELOADED: IT ALL BEGINS HERE!**

The Social Welfare Agency in Italy is not what it seems. Yes, it rescues young girls who have been brutalized—but brainwashes them and transforms them into ruthless killers for an elite and secret counter-terrorism unit for the Italian government.

Enter Henrietta, a young girl who witnessed the savage murder of her family and barely survived. The Agency takes her in and repairs her injuries using the latest in cybernetic technology, wiping her mind of all traces of her past and turning her into one of the Agency's most lethal assassins.

Yet despite her programming, Henrietta is troubled by fragmented memories. It is her handler's job, Jose, to keep her feelings in check and ensure that she stays on mission. This task is made all the more difficult because Henrietta bears an uncanny resemblance to Jose's younger sister who died in a car bombing years earlier.



OLDER TEEN (16+)

MANGA



Seven Seas

WWW.GOMANGA.COM